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# OUTLOOKS

Canada's Gay Community Magazine

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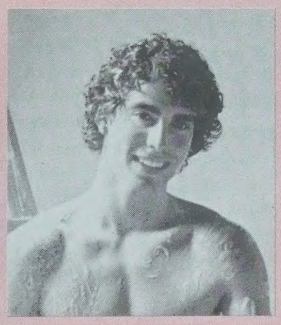


***PRETTY (and) MESSY***

***Nevin, photographed on location at Urban Sky rental studio by Graham Major. Nevin appears courtesy of Reel Time Inc.***

# what's where

## NOT A BLACK-AND-WHITE ISSUE

Is that blue sky a warm colour or a cool colour? Is green grass a primary or tertiary hue? Before you head out into the glory of spring, be sure to acquaint yourself with the basics of colour theory first. Oh—and get a room or two painted while you're at it...

## ROSES ARE RED; VYLETZ ARE COOL

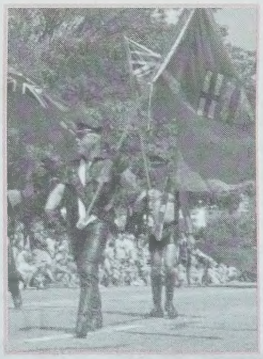
Though they claim Mandy Moore and Jessica Simpson as inspirations (of sorts!), Toronto grrrls Michelle and Liz know how to rock any world they're in. Rick Matthews tunes us in to what makes Vyletz tick.

## A CAPITAL IDEA!

Would you like lemon or homosexual newlyweds with your tea, Madame? New hubby in tow, *Outlooks* contributor Pat Johnson set out to test drive Victoria as a same-sex honeymoon destination, using the venerable old Empress Hotel as his home base.

## PRIDE IN HIS HIDE

Edmonton's Scott Bryen is off to represent his city at the world-renowned International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago before he relinquishes his sash in June and brings an end to his year as Mr. Edmonton Leather. David King tells us more...



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## LETTERS

An Open Letter to Anne McLennan:

I recently saw your interview published in *Outlooks* and I was disgusted to see how lightly you treated the prime minister's adding the question about a separate registry before the Supreme Court. I was married last summer and when the prime minister asked this question, I felt horrified and disenfranchised. At that moment, as deep inside of me as ever, I began to reject the notion that other Canadians have the "Religious (moral) Right" to degrade me. I saw the connection between straight Christian Canadians attempting to hold onto their supremacist privilege with other historical efforts of Christians to secure supremacist privilege. For example, *The Witches Hammer*, published by Pope Pius in 1400, suggested that women were created from a bent rib of Adam and were therefore lesser humans. I noticed on the Ku Klux Klan website the assertion that people of dark skin and Jews were created before Adam and are therefore animals not worthy of human rights. On the Focus on the Family site it states that "Heterosexuals are the Divine Gender" and "marriage a Divine institution" (Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve). I realized the Christian supremacists throughout history have used a literal, yet twisted, version of the creation story to say that we "lesser people" are not lesser due only to our "sin" or the cruel hand of Darwin, but because God Almighty made us lesser and never considered us persons in his glorious creation.

It was at this moment that I realized that enough is enough. Your light treatment of the supremacist question in your interview in *Outlooks* is the true joke. Malcom X stated that there are "House Negroes" who suck out of the master's hand because they have at least some comfort to lose, and there are "Field Negroes" who see slavery for what it is and that any suggestion that backs are "citizens" of the United States is a delusion. You, Anne, suggest that we can amiably come to a conclusion regarding my future and the future of my family in legislative debate. I tell you that, until gays can marry in this country, I remain a furious "Field Faggot" who considers himself neither Canadian nor a subject of the laws of a supremacist nation. The debate will not be amiable as bigoted supremacists attempt to destroy my rights to family, of this you can be sure. I have attached Malcom X's speech for your white limousine liberal pleasure.

P.S. Mr. [Justice Minister Irwin] Cotler, shame on you for having anything to do with these horrible people.

Lyle J.

(By e-mail)

*Outlooks*:

Your editorial "Anatomy of a party leader" was right to the point, which is why I found the article two pages later ("Defining liberalism") bemusing. In fact, Ms McLellan has not historically been a strong friend of our community and the softball interview of her presented here does little to bring this out. Nowhere does she endorse same-sex marriage (only equal rights for same- and opposite-sex couples—civil unions, anyone?). Indeed, when, as justice minister, she reluctantly presided over the introduction of same-sex partner legislation, she immediately rushed to shore up the support of right-wing Martinite Liberals by introducing the infamous resolution that 'marriage will always be recognised as a union between a man and a woman'). She wrought what is now Alliance/Conservative orthodoxy and what is anathema to those of us who want true equality and not "separate but equal".

On the Hislop case regarding CPP benefits she is, to put it mildly, disingenuous. In fact, the only people being discriminated against by the arbitrary setting of the start date for qualification as 1998 are gays and lesbians. The courts, to this point, have already said as much and, again as with the same-sex marriage question, the federal government is simply putting off the ultimate day of reckoning at the expense of many aging and ailing members of our community, most of whom are living on limited means.

A hard-hitting interview with Ms McLellan would have been in order.

P. Larocque,

Ottawa

**The Editor Responds:**

***Outlooks* has always asked questions of interview subjects and run their responses for readers to interpret/accept/reject/criticise as they see fit. By its very nature, the Q & A format establishes and supports this approach, whereas an editorial does just that, it editorializes and presents the writer's own biased opinion. Unfortunately, so-called hard-hitting interviews generally do not accomplish as much as people hope they might (outside the world of television); at best, such an approach puts the subject on the less-than-communicative defensive and, at worst, the interviewer runs the risk of having their session terminated prematurely, putting the kibosh on any further questions. By letting Ms McLellan establish her position on such issues as the Hislop case and same-sex marriage on "neutral territory", she opens herself up to being held accountable by those in our community who wish to question her further, a potentially tough position to occupy in an election year. *Outlooks* has opened the door to such discourse by securing and running the interview as it stands; now you may proceed with your own questions for the deputy prime minister directly. Anne McLellan can be reached by e-mail at: McLellan.A@parl.gc.ca; please feel free to quote her *Outlooks* responses when stating your case.**

Dear *Outlooks*,

Being an artist in Canada can mean a lot of things, although it usually means being ignored by your fellow Canadians. This can be even more the case for minority artists, gays and lesbians among them, and often some of our brightest stars have to shine elsewhere in order to be truly appreciated in their own country.

The work of Steven Fraser Jones, which ran in the April issue of *Outlooks*, is a testament to this. Not only is his work stunning and compelling, the short biography included on the page emphasized the fact that we all need to support Canadian art and the artists who make it, wherever they may be in the world.

I think you should be congratulated for promoting the work of gay and lesbian artists in the pages of your publication, and I look forward to seeing more. Well done!

A. Bendali

Montreal

**The Editor Responds:**

**Don't forget about our many talented photographers, too! Focus can be found on page 35 of this issue and features the work of Toronto-based Tony Fong this month. We have been quite pleased with the response to our Framed showcase, and already have enough material lined up for the next six months.**

**WE WANT YOUR LETTERS**

Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:
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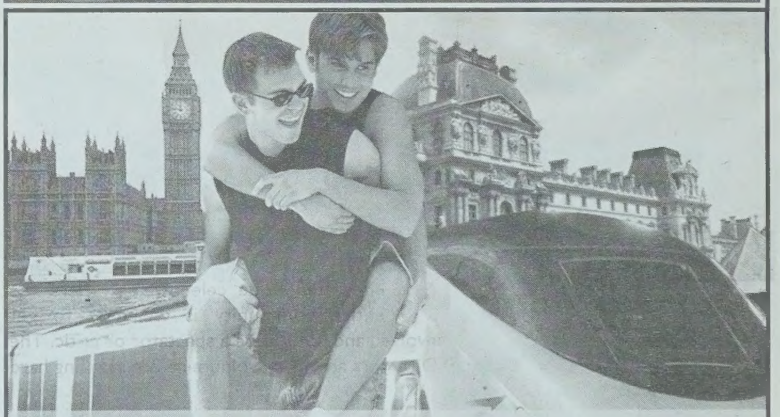

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# Pride and prejudice

*By Roy Heale*

Last August, over a wonderful summer luncheon on a patio overlooking Tomkins Park, a good friend of mine introduced me to Barb Stein, Executive Director of the Uptown 17 Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ). Even though Barb and my friend Kerry were off to play a round of golf right after lunch and their time was limited, it proved to be a memorable occasion. Actually, it was not just an enjoyable experience—that meeting turned out to bear fruit beyond my wildest expectations. Barb completely understood that her BRZ was situated in a diverse and multicultural neighbourhood, one that includes much of Calgary's GLBT community, who she welcomes with open arms. Her gay-friendly manner encouraged me to ask if there was any possibility of flying the rainbow flag along 17th Avenue S.W. during the Pride Parade and perhaps holding a party afterwards in Tomkins Park. The rest, as they say, is history—or, rather, it *will be*, commencing this June.

This is a time when I can feel great pride in calling Calgary my home. After many meetings with Uptown 17 merchants, local gay businesses and Pride Calgary, I am happy to report that we will see the rainbow flag flying up and down the avenue for the whole month of June! Individuals, groups and businesses can even show their pride and community spirit by sponsoring a rainbow flag (or flags) of their own on 17th Avenue this June. In addition, our first Pride Street Festival will be held at Tomkins Park, in the heart of the Beltline village. Nearly everyone involved felt it was better to join the parade rather than being on the sidelines observing all the fun. This kind of acceptance is well-established in such cities as Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver, and now Calgary joins the list with its own integrated Pride celebrations, where the entire community is welcome to get involved and not just be a spectator or critic. The energetic new Pride Calgary Board of Directors and many volunteers are working hard to make the 2004 Pride celebrations a fresh and unforgettable time for us all to enjoy. Mayor Bronconnier has officially proclaimed Pride Week and the stage is set for a phenomenal event where we can show our pride and self-respect. I, for one, can't wait for the stretch between June 6 and 12 and Calgary—one that will, hopefully, boast sunny skies and rainbows everywhere.

*Tomkins Park on Calgary's 17th Ave. S.W.*

However, just as the final touches are being put on these exciting celebrations, storm clouds are gathering over a downtown Calgary courthouse. Not since the '80s has there been such a homophobic affront to our community. Of course, I'm speaking of the December 2002 bathhouse rate at Goliath's Saunatel. It's taken almost a year-and-a-half for this case to finally come before the Alberta bench, and I can't help but wonder if the delays have been intentional. The media attention across Canada was intense at the time of the raid but now, as those accused soldier onwards, it has all but slipped from everyone's mind. The central issue of this case hinges upon what constitutes a private place versus a public place. The crown prosecutor argues that, despite the clear identification as a gay establishment, membership rules, admission fees and locked entrance doors, Goliath's is a public place. I cannot think of a more prejudicial stance against the entire gay community at large than this homophobic argument. After all, this has been argued in other provincial courts in Canada and has proved to be a lost cause. So much for precedent in our judicial system. Whatever the outcome of the case, I know those accused have gone to great personal lengths and financial cost to defend our freedom and right to privacy. At press time, the outcome was uncertain but imminent. Let's hope it does not overshadow our positive move forward as Pride Week approaches in Calgary, and many other cities across Canada. Somewhere in Cowtown there is a judge struggling to face up to the reality of this newly cosmopolitan city that we all live in—a community of communities, many of us having settled here in the last quarter century.

*The sign inside Goliath's Saunatel*

Personally, I would like to keep optimism in the forefront and anticipate a memorable season of proud celebrations. Our June issue will once again include a National Pride Guide, complete with details on celebrations here in Calgary, as well as other cities across Canada. In the meantime, you can look forward to some memorable festivities this summer. I know I'm proud of my role and *Outlooks'* role—past and present—in helping Pride grow each year across this country.

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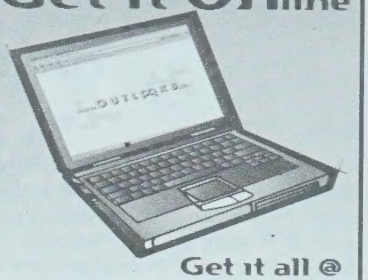

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# To forgive is divine

*By John Coulbourn*

I've never paid a lot of attention to the path one must follow in order to attain sainthood, figuring, I suppose, that in view of the fact that it all seems to be controlled by the Roman Catholic Church, it is neither a place I would want to be nor a place in which I would be wildly welcome. That said, I'm sure that attaining it is not a democratic process. Which leaves me wondering why, in this colourful day and age, we still cling, like grim death to a pauper, to the delusional notion that our leaders, both political and moral, are somehow saints—this, despite considerable proof, on any given day, that these leaders are, in fact, anything but saintly.

The latest proof, of course, can be found in the strange, sad case of Member of Parliament—and yes, gay icon—Svend Robinson, whose announcement earlier this month that he had formed a rather unethical attachment to a very expensive diamond ring unleashed a storm of controversy and sent more than a titter running through numerous houses, not the least of which is the House of Parliament.

Now, to declare prejudices right up front, though I've often disagreed with Robinson's grandstanding style (just like I've disagreed with Ralph Klein's, Stockwell Day's and even Jack Layton's and numerous others), he remains a man for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration—and not just because of his sexuality and the open way in which he has dealt with it.

Despite his rather obvious taste for the spotlight, Robinson has, it seems to me, always stood and stood firmly for the rights of others—a fact underlined in rather bizarre fashion in the wake of this recent scandal.

Speaking of Robinson's politcal career, a rather pretty talking head from the great grey *Globe and Mail* eulogised Robinson (somewhat prematurely, one hopes) by identifying him as a longtime champion for human rights and gay rights, too—shocking in the process, one might add, those of us who assumed that a fight for gay rights was in fact a fight for human rights, too.

So, like many others, my first reaction to news of Robinson's very public confession was purely one of shock, followed rather quickly (he admits sheepishly) by a momentary but fervent wish that if a prominent gay man were going to succumb to stress in such a public fashion, he'd do it by getting drunk and hitting a cop like so many straight guys do. What can I say? Sometimes it's easier to take the boy from the closet than it is to take the closet from the boy.

Still, just as I was launching into the whole notion that I'd been let down by another gay icon, it came crashing home that, like so many others, I'd fallen prey to the whole notion that my heroes just had to be saints.

This, when the very things that had made them my heroes was the fact that they were so very human. Robinson didn't perform miracles to change the world, the way saints are reputed to do, but rather slogged away day after day, changing the world in tiny little increments that have added up to big change.

In the days since Robinson's confession, I've thought a lot about both him and his situation—and here's what I think.

For openers, none of us can begin to imagine the pressures that have built up on the private side of his very public life—and, despite what many people think, he has no obligation whatsoever to share with us those very private pressures. I'm tired of the notion that by entering public life, one surrenders any right to privacy.

The fact remains that, regardless of what those pressures were, as gay Canadians we live in a world that has been shaped positively in ways both large and small by Robinson and his convictions. And with the advent of Bill C250, it is a world that will continue to be shaped by them, one hopes, despite the fact that Christian fundamentalists are in full cry that its passage will result in the Bible being labelled hate literature. (As an aside, one can only wonder how anyone could be so devoted to a book of which they have such a low opinion, but that's a subject for another day.)

Suggestions in the popular press that Robinson only confessed to his crime because he knew he'd already been caught are so ludicrous that one can't even begin to know how to refute them, as are suggestions that if he were truly repentent, he would have hired a less high-profile lawyer.

Finally, yes, if Robinson were an ordinary citizen, there is every possibility that he would have gone to jail for his actions, but rest assured that, in stealing a piece of jewellery, an ordinary citizen would not have been exposed to the level of national and even international humiliation that Robinson in now facing. Ditto for the level of vitriol that is being heaped on him by a right-wing press that finally sees the opportunity to bring a gay man to his knees—which, make no mistake, is where, in their tiny little minds, we all belong. And not for any interesting reason, either.

After decades of being in the vanguard of the fight for gay rights, Robinson has faltered—as every human, gay or straight, it seems to me, inevitably must—unless of course, one is a saint.

So, as a community, we no longer have the image of Saint Svend to hide behind. What we have instead is simply Svend the human being—a man, a gay man of principal, who clearly needs all the support we can give him right now.

Just as clearly, he has earned it. ▼

***John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.***

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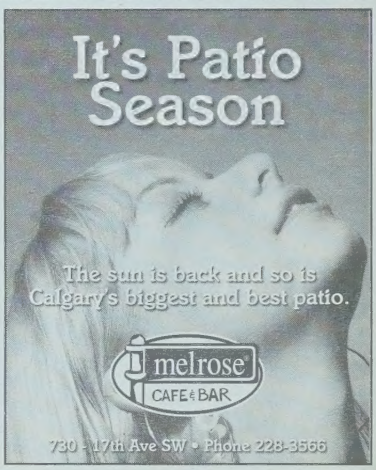

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**Sunday May 23rd**

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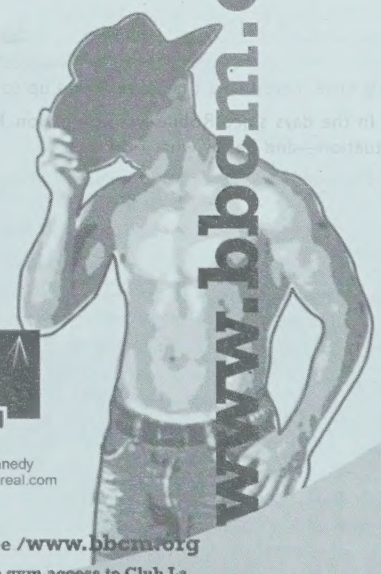


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# Resourceful rummaging

*By Peter Carlyle-Gordge*

Manitobans suffer through some of the longest, coldest winters in Canada, but there are two sure signs of spring: geese and ducks returning from their southern sojourns, and the ubiquitous sprouting of yard and garage sale signs.

The 'Peg, often called "wholesale city", loves a bargain and it seems to support a thriving yard sale industry that is way out of proportion to its actual size. One of the most popular is that put on to raise funds for the Rainbow Resource Centre in the poor West Broadway neighbourhood.

It's being held Saturday May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the backyard of gay Winnipeg realtor Chris Krawchenko, who also happens to be president of the Rainbow Resource Centre this year. This is the ninth such event and it's not only a fundraiser, but also a great chance to socialize and meet friends. Anywhere from 400 to 500 people usually show up, including a lot of straight neighbourhood people, kids in tow.

Krawchenko has always loved haunting flea markets and yard sales himself and he knows how hard it is sometimes to raise money to support gay and lesbian programs.

"We were always asking people to donate money but I realized quite a few in our community are on low incomes and can't support us with cash, but they may have goods they want to donate," he explains. "They can also volunteer time."

The first sale in 1995 was expected to make about $200. Instead, it raised $900 and paid the rent at the resource centre for three months. It also sparked a lot of social interaction, with lots of seniors helping price and sort the donated goods.

Krawchenko takes a couple of days off from work to help get things organized. A solid core of volunteers as well as his mother, Mary (who looks after the feeding and watering of volunteers and is famous for her egg salad sandwiches), also assists him. The yard sale has been held on various days in the past, but is now fixed for the Saturday before Mother's Day, since that seems to works best.

Donations include a lot of clothing, books, small appliances, light fixtures, furniture, old stereo equipment and computers, sports equipment and general bric-a-brac. Everything is priced very, very reasonably, since many in the neighborhood live on small incomes and Krawchenko's philosophy is to try to get most of the stuff sold.

"The nickels and dimes *do* add up," he says. "The neighbours know it's a good sale and they can pick up clothing for themselves or their children at very low prices."

One year someone donated some chesterfields he thought were just too good to sell, so he donated them to the Rainbow Resource Centre for the offices. If winter sports gear such as skates or skis doesn't sell, he donates that to the local community centre, which caters to many children unable to afford equipment.

Any unsold leftovers are also sent to Value Village.

One of the anecdotes Krawchenko loves to relate is the day some years ago when a woman pulled up to the sale early one morning in a car plastered with Christian messages and texts. "We had a lot of cribs and baby equipment and she bought everything up and had us put it in her car," he recalls. "She must have spent about $200 and, though our prices are very reasonable, she wanted to talk them down."

*Winnipeg realtor—and Rainbow Resource President—Chris Krawchenko*

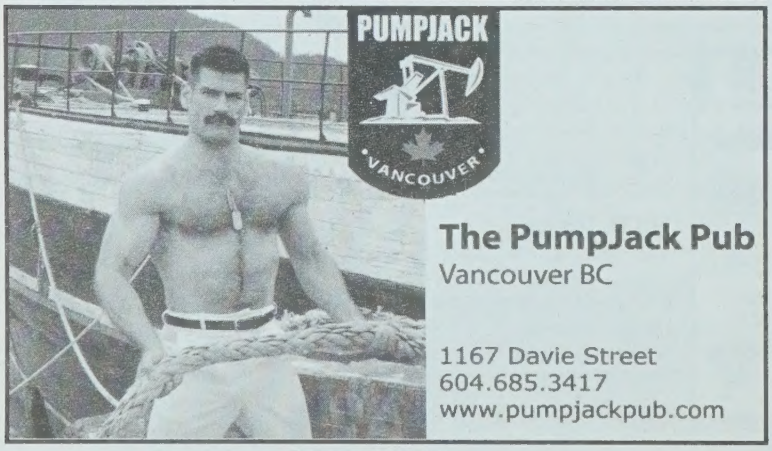
As she was paying, she glanced 'round and realized the event was likely meant to raise funds for charity, so she asked which charity. Krawchenko calmly told her all proceeds went to what was then known as the Gay and Lesbian Resource Centre.

"She went five shades of white and you could see the emotions flitting across her face," he recalls. "She was torn because she knew she had a car full of bargains and she was obviously wondering if she should return them all and get her money back, since the charity caused her some problems!"

She looked around and noticed there were definitely straight people with children there, so the bargains won out. She said nothing, took the loot and drove off.

Bargain hunters often arrive an hour before the sale, but no one gets in early. By the time it opens, up to a hundred shoppers are lined up behind a roped off area. In the past, weather could be problematic, but this year Krawchenko has a brand new double garage, which will easily fit all the sale

continued opposite



from previous items inside.

Over the years his dog, Lilly, has become used to people arriving at all hours and dropping off donations to be priced and sorted. "I suspect Lilly is actually a lesbian because she enjoys the sale and gets along very well with the crowd," laughs Krawchenko, who's been selling homes for the past sixteen years.

In the early years of the sale, he admits he bought tons of stuff himself, especially old magazines that he has collected for years. *Homes and Gardens* from the forties and fifties are a particular favourite. Now he's trying to thin out his collection, so last year he donated a couple of boxes of his own magazines back to the sale.

If you're in Winnipeg May 8 and want to donate or buy items, the sale is at the back of 121 Spence Street between Broadway and Balmoral Street. Donations can be picked up by calling (204) 474-0212. ▼

***Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for* Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.***

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OUTLOOKS
MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PROfile

Board Member:
**Colleen Hanna**

## Question:

Why is the *Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation* credit card sponsored by the MBNA Bank, a U.S. based bank?

## Answer:

When the *OMCF* originally decided to promote a gay credit card, all of the banks in Canada were contacted to solicit their sponsorship. Unfortunately, the banks required a mailing list of at least 5000 names and addresses before they would agree to sponsor our affinity card. As our list was substantially smaller, we were forced to look at Canadian subsidiaries of U.S. banks as our sponsor. MBNA, a compnay which specializes in affinity credit cards was chosen to sponsor the first (and only) gay credit card in Canada.

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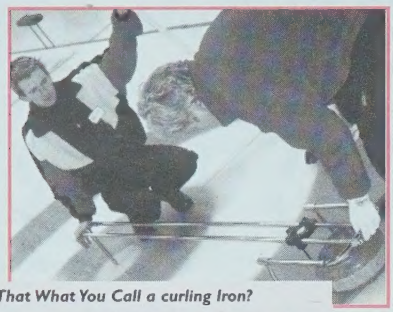
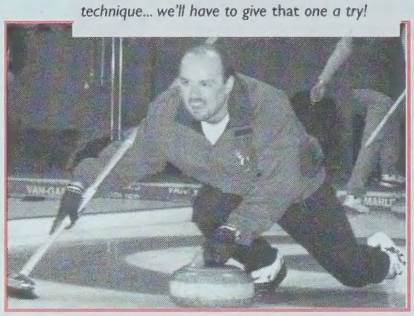
## Curling Bonspiel
GRAIN EXCHANGE CURLING CLUB



***Is That What You Call a curling Iron?***
*Trevor gets down to the business of determining which rock was closer in the grand scheme of things.*



***Getting His Rock Off***
*Darren demonstrates the "crouch and push" technique... we'll have to give that one a try!*

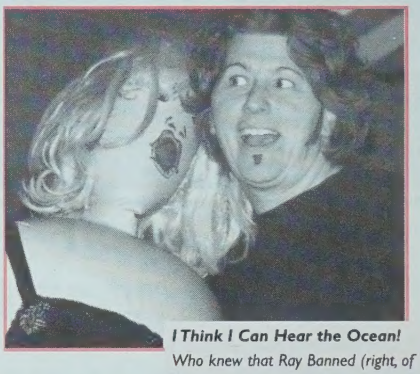
***Nice On Ice***
*The ladies ham it up for the camera during a break between games.*

## Mr. and Ms Gio's Pageant
GIO'S

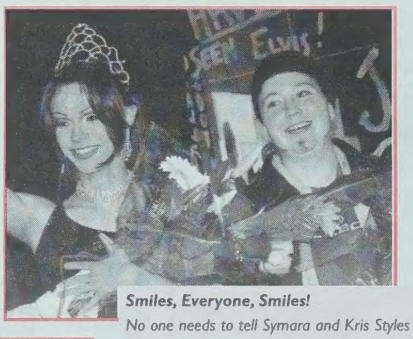
***Pray You Don't Land in This E.R.!***
*Outgoing Gio's royalty Guenivere De-Giovanni Horse and Phil Thee can't decide which of them should wear their new title.*

***Chrissy Snow twenty-five Years Later?***
*Tyra Boinks has a "blonde moment" as she tries to figure out how her sign works. If at first you don't succeed...*

## Drag King Burlesque
CLUB DESIRE

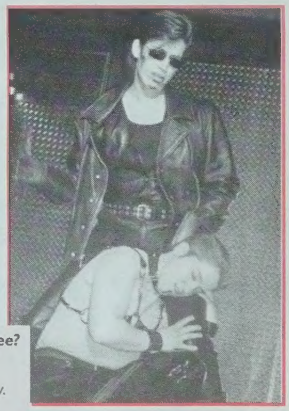


***I Think I Can Hear the Ocean!***
*Who knew that Ray Banned (right, of course!) had such a fetish for the latex ladies? Now that's playing safe...!*



***Smiles, Everyone, Smiles!***
*No one needs to tell Symara and Kris Styles that—they've just been crowned Mr. and Ms Gio's.*

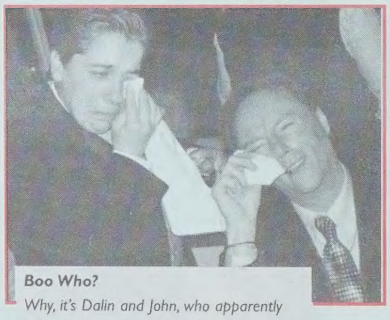
*Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. All photos by Brent Y.*



***You're Asleep and You're Only at My Knee? Some Slave...***
*Tess Tickles keeps Ryan Coke in line and at bay. Perhaps you can teach old dogs new tricks!*

## Liz and Reece's Wedding and Reception
AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH AND TIFFANI'S

***Would You Like Fries With That?***
*On the way to the reception, the happy couple got a little peckish and took the limo to the drive-thru. Trés elegant!*



***Boo Who?***
*Why, it's Dalin and John, who apparently "always cry at weddings".*

***Having Their Cake...and Equality, Too***
*Is this a recurring trend here? Just wait 'til you're old and grey and have to help each other eat for real, you two!*

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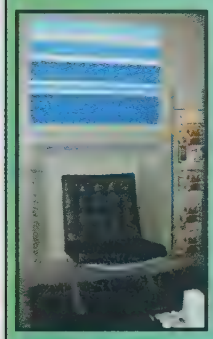
# Life and style...

*By Vida*

## YOU NEW 'ROUND THESE HERE PARTS?



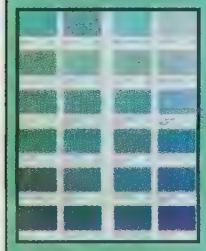
Eureka! In last month's issue, we told you about the Chicago Chair, an affordable alternative to Mies van der Rohe's significantly more costly Barcelona Chair. Problem was, our source was the U.S.-based Web-and-retail company Urban Outfitters—a less than convenient solution for purchasing said chair. Thanks to Soujourn, a new homestyle retail operation in Calgary's ever-growing southeast design district, the Chicago is available right here in town. A better buy than the Urban Outfitters offering, Soujourn's Chicago comes with a matching ottoman, and is available in either cream or black faux leather (CDN$430/set) or black canvas (CDN$355/set).

Recently opened to cater to the savviest of savvy Calgary shoppers, Soujourn offers a wide range of chic and affordable furniture and accessories for the home, and also features an in-house studio for the distinctive masonry sinks and commodes of Grotto Design.

We particularly liked the scaled-down dining set (pictured right), which comes in a variety of colours thanks to its sleek zip-off covers in easy-to-clean microfibre velvet . As the chairs retail for a mere $155 each, and the table for $99, the pieces are inexpensive enough to buy in multiples to set out "cabaret style" at your next cocktail party. Also worthy of note is the robin's egg blue microfibre "Paris Side Chair" (below right), a chic little steal at only $710.

Soujourn's many pieces—and prices—have to be seen to to be believed; you can visit them "in person" at Unit One, 7133 11th Avenue S.E., or check them out online at **www.soujourn.com**.

## ON THE (FARROW AND) BALL



Colour enthusiasts need not look far to get their fix, thanks to Calgary-based design maven Maria Tomàs, the exclusive Alberta dealer of British-made Farrow and Ball paints. Renowned for their rich, muted "heritage" colours, Farrow and Ball is held in high esteem among the decor cognoscenti and offers a wide range of handsome hues for those who like a bit more substance with their style. The company's limited-run, handmade wallpapers are also available through Tomàs' retail operation.

This is not to say, however, that Maria Tomàs has limited herself or her customers to fabulous wall coverings—the shop also boasts an impressive and extensive collection of furnishings, window fashions, bedding, draperies and home accessories, all selected from the "best of the best" in the world of interior design. The shop excels in its blend of modern and traditional-with-a-twist pieces, as evidenced in the granite-topped cocktail table and Lucite lamp, pictured above right.

Maria Tomàs is located at the corner of 11th Avenue and 11th Street S.W., on the 11th Avenue design stroll, and a selection of her wares is available online at **www.mariatomas.com**.

## GLASS ACT

Upon walking through the doors of Panache, it's evident that upscale art glass isn't the only thing on offer at this newly opened decor emporium, but it's certainly among the most dazzling. An off-shoot of the wildly successful Joints in Kensington, Panache boasts an impressive array of dramatic home furnishings and accessories, as well as a full-service framing department and the aforementioned art glass.

Of particular interest are the many vibrant blown glass vessels (pictured left), which comprise the bulk of Panache's selection, and the exquisitely wrought bowls and platters drawn from sources around the globe. (The one pictured at right is displayed between the tiers of a dual-finish glass coffee table.)

To experience Panache for yourself, visit them at the corner of 11th Avenue and 11th Street S.W., adjacent to Maria Tomàs.

## DESIGN EQUATION

While we all know that Pi equals 3.14 (etc., etc.), it can also add up to an infinite amount of charm. Inspired by the (in)famous mathematical symbol, this austere stool, hand carved in Bali from durable teak, is a gorgeous combination of form and function. With its simple lines and rich colouration, this little wooden darling would be equally at home in traditional spaces or rooms inspired by the far East. Even in downtown, minimalist schemes, the Pi stool could soften a modern, hard edge by lending a touch of good old-fashioned craftsmanship.

This piece is perfect as either an occasional table, a footrest or additional seating at parties, and packs a maximum amount of visual appeal in a very small space. To purchase a Pi stool (it also comes in a more substantial bench-length version), or to view any of the other fabulous imports on offer, visit Art of My Heart on the third level of Calgary's TD Square, right next to the Gap.

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# Here's to Hue

*By John Ayres*

In the dead of winter, after staring at the same old walls for months, many of us decide we want a change. Spurred on by Home & Garden Television and the distant worlds portrayed in glossy decorating magazines, our minds run wild with endless possibilities. And then it hits us: winter is the *worst* time to start an interior overhaul. Being Canada, the likelihood of having to trudge out into the snow is possible, if not guaranteed, and the desire to tackle a DIY project is often overshadowed by our natural instinct to cocoon during this stretch of dark mornings and short evenings. However, that was then; this is now.

Painting is one of the quickest, most effective and economical ways to make a change and bring colour into your post-winter world. And spring is an excellent time to explore your "strokes of inspiration": the days are longer, the light more plentiful and temperatures are generally warm enough for you to open up doors and windows to let your masterpiece (or pieces) dry "alfresco". Besides, you literally had *months* to fuss and fumble with all the hot colours you saw recommended in the design mags, so coming to a decision (or several, if you're bold) shouldn't be too much of a chore.

Colour, or hue, is a funny thing, an element of décor that's tied to our emotions at a primal level. Ever fickle, it can embrace and inspire, or pull us down into the grey depths of depression. Though often dictated by the whims of fashion, by and large, colour—and your response to it—is intensely personal. The most important thing to remember is that you're the one who has to live with it in your home. In other words, if "simply everyone" is using, say, sage green in their interior and you *hate* sage green, then listen to the practical angel on your shoulder and not the trendy devil who tells you to follow the pack. If being trendy *is* important to you, when it comes to colour you can always accessorize with a small and unobtrusive something that captures the hue of the moment. Again, however, if a particular colour really is "bad on you", then it's probably best left on the pages of one of your posh periodicals!

On your trip to the end of the rainbow, you may find a few terms that can throw you off as you're trying to concentrate on making a decision, so here's an explanation of the most common words and phrases you're likely to encounter in the world of colour.

**Hue**—Simply put: colour.

**Tint**—The hue resulting when white is added to any colour.

**Shade**—The hue resulting when black is added to any colour.

**Value**—The term used to describe the lightness or darkness of a colour.

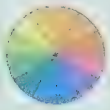
**Saturation**—This generally refers to the "purity" of a colour. Without the addition of another colour, a pure hue has the highest saturation.

**Warm**—Warm colours include members of the red, yellow and orange family, and are likely to inspire the strongest emotional responses. To the human eye, warm colours seem to "advance"; the degree to which this occurs often relates to the intensity of the hue.

**Cool**—Cool colours include blue, green and purple tones, and are generally quite calming. Unlike warm colours, cool hues seem to "recede" in our eyes, again based on the value of the colour.

**Primary colours**—Often mistaken as "childlike" colours, the primaries are red, yellow and blue. In various combinations, they are the basis for every other colour known to man.

**Non-colours**—Black and white. 'Nuff said. Grey, the love child of the two, is still considered a non-colour, and will "tone" other hues it's added to.



**Colour wheel**—As the name suggests, a colour wheel is just that, a round tool (either two- or three-dimensional) that charts hues in a circle as they relate to one another [see left]. It's believed that the idea of a circular colour diagram originated in 1666, with Sir Isaac Newton, and that this conceptual foundation has been explored and developed by everyone from scientists to artists ever since.

**Secondary colours**—Those made from the primaries; include green, orange and purple.

**Tertiary colours**—These are found between secondary colours and primary colours, such as blue-green, yellow-orange, red-blue and so on.

**Complementary colours**—These are the hues found directly across from one another on the colour wheel, such as red and green or blue and orange. A colour will always seem brighter or more intense when placed next to its complement, and vice-versa.

The key principle when it comes to choosing colour is *know thyself*, and the best exercise for narrowing down your selections is the "glance and grab" approach. The idea is simple: walk up to a colour chip display in any home improvement or paint store and immediately reach for the ones that catch your eye. When you have a handful of swatches, start comparing them to one another within a colour family (i.e.: put all your greens together, all your blues together) and then narrow your choices down from there. Once you've reduced your options to a number you're comfortable with, *leave the store*. Repeat with other brands at other retail locations until you have a sizable yet manageable collection to consider. Remember, paint chips are free and intended for use as test strips, so take them home and live with them for awhile. See how they respond to different types of light. See how *you* respond to *them* in different types of light. See how they look with each other if you're planning to combine several in either a single colour scheme or in parts of an open concept space where they will come in direct contact with one another. The most important thing is not be too hasty in reaching a decision—a general rule of thumb is, if you enjoy a colour and feel comfortable with it for at least a week, you'll likely be able to live with it in your home for year or two, or however long you choose to stick with one scheme. If you're having trouble envisioning how a whole room will look based on one tiny colour swatch, try having a test batch made up with your "final" choice. Most retailers will mix 946 ml. (or smaller) cans up for you to try on your wall or even a decent-sized scrap piece of wood. Seeing your selection closer to what would be "life size" can really affect the outcome of your "final-final" decision before the process advances too far. Many paint companies and stores also offer computer programs that let you try out a colour using a photograph of your space—just be careful not to put too much stock in these "gimmicks", as the best test is one using actual paint on real materials.

Once you've made your choice (or choices), be sure to prepare yourself and your space for the task ahead. Cover all vital items in the space you'll be painting or, better still, stash them in another room altogether. Put on your rubber gloves and wash the walls down with T.S.P. (trisodium phosphate) cleaner, and make sure they're dry before you start your project. If you can, get up early and wash the walls *before* you go buy your paint, that way they'll be dry when you return and you can jump right into the job. Always leave yourself plenty of time to get the work done—rushing a paint job is not only unpleasant, the final result can look truly shoddy under certain lighting conditions when you just "slap it on".

Be sure to buy more paint than you know is required, as saving extra for repair jobs, touch-ups or future matching ("big box" stores generally put the formula on the can) will make things a lot easier in the long run. Once you have all the recommended coats on your wall, live with your new colour for at least seventy-two hours before deciding you "hate" it. A colour change of *any* kind can deliver a jolt, so allow yourself a reasonable period to adjust. If you're using a tinted primer (recommended for very deep or very bright hues), follow through with the paint application before passing judgement—tinted primers on their own rarely resemble the colours they're meant to support "behind the scenes".

If it turns out you do hate the new look, allow yourself a few days to calm down and relax before re-painting, one of the quickest, most effective and economical ways (sound familiar?) to solve a décor problem. ▼

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR MAKING COLOUR WORK FOR YOU

Contrary to popular belief, dark colours will not make a room look smaller; however, contrast will. If you have sudden "jumps" from one colour to another within a room, it will make the physical limits of the space more obvious. Colour continuity can go a long way in creating "flow" and making a room look larger. Recent trends have seen the "wrapping" of colour in home spaces, with a single paint hue used for both walls and ceilings. If this concept seems too heavy, try softening the contrast between walls and ceiling by painting the latter in a tint of the former.

If you're faced with bright colours that you can't change (apple green carpet in a rental unit, for example) don't try to downplay them with beige. Neutral tones will only make a bright colour pop, so try putting more colour with it to "even the score". In the case of the apple green carpet, a coat of deep putty or a warm chocolate brown would do wonders, as would a Caribbean aqua hue or even a cantaloupe tone, paired with resort-inspired furniture.

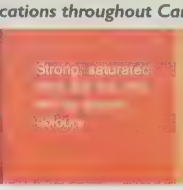
There are literally thousands of versions of white available in the marketplace, and many of them contain a wide variety of other subtle hues in order to adapt to various lighting conditions. When choosing white for your space, narrow your swatches down to no fewer than ten, and give yourself extra time to examine and consider your choices in various types of light at various points in the day in evening.

The colours along the bottom of this page represent some of the "hottest" hues for 2004

***John Ayres is a freelance writer who specializes in lifestyle and fashion. His work has appeared in publications throughout Canada and the western United States.***

Heathered greys are a perfect counterpoint to both neutrals and brights

Last year's aqua has become more intense, almost tropical




Oranges have cooled off a bit to a richer sorbet hue, made more enticing with a hint of pink

The slightly orange new yellows will warm up rooms with limited natural light

Neutral tones like this golden buff truly do go with almost anything

# OUTLOOKS

## NATIONAL PRIDE GUIDE

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Get the word *OUT* in our
8th Annual National Pride Guide
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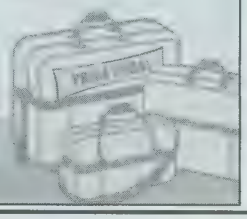

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# CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO

11TH ANNUAL

## CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
## JULY 2-4, 2004

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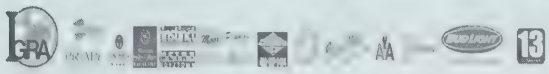
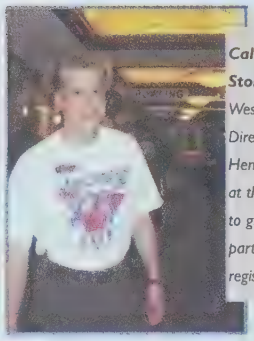


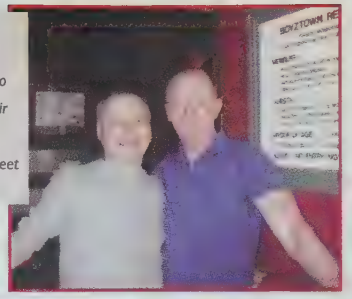
CALGARY'S WESTERN CUP XXII BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

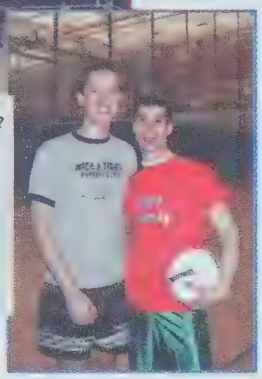


**Calm Before the Storm**
Western Cup Director Thomas Henchel, on hand at the Westin Hotel to greet participants at registration.

**Ante'd Up**
Representitives from RBC, a presenting sponsor of Western Cup, out to show their support.

**A Warm Western Cup Welcome**
Lady B (left) and Flo get ready to do their part at the Metro/Boyztown Meet 'n' Greet.





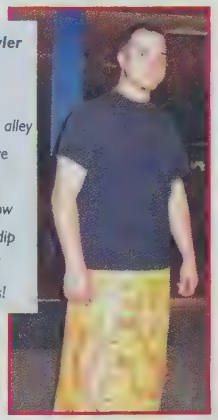
**Is Your Hand On My Ass? Yeah... Is Your Hand on Mine...?**
Outlooks cover model TJ (left) with pal and Don't You Wish boy Jimmy, in-betwen rounds of volleyball action.

**Keeping Their Cool**
Maybe when the game's on; here Greg (left) and Chris scrunch up to stay warm between rounds.

**Time Off "Pool-side"**
Gary Courtney (left), of Courtney Sebree Aarbo law firm, enjoys a billiards "breather" with partner Kelly Ernst before the weekend swings into "high gear".

**Pin Head**
Bowling Director Jane MacFarlane (right) pauses for a pose during the bowling action, possibly to contemplate her grand debut (below) in the 2004 Halftime Show later that night.

**Breezy Bowler**
Paul brings a touch of the tropics to the alley with his festive sarong—you should see how low you can dip down to bowl without pants!



**Naughty Schoolgirls?**
Nope, just a happy pair of kilted gents walking into Friday's Viva Las Vegas night arm-in-arm.

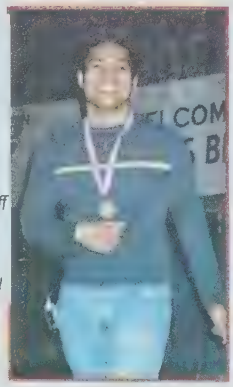
**Keep Those Day Jobs, Ladies!**
Members of the Friday night Halftime Show's crack (and cleavage) acrobatic squad, doin' it up right for an appreciative crowd.

**Boy-Girl-Boy-Girl—Hey, Wait a Minute!**
Toronto Diva Terry Stevens—flanked by August cover model Kevin (left) and his partner Kelly—out to promote her cross-Canada T2K tour at the dance. Hmmm... could a TK2 tour be in the works?

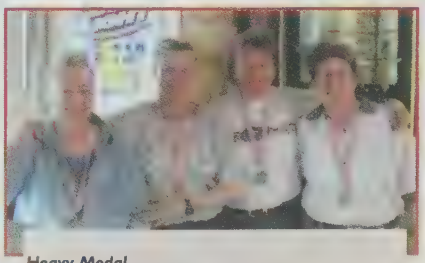
**Feelin' Spinny**
Calgary community booster, Dr. Richard Denney, obviously on a roll at the Viva Las Vegas event. How can gambling be considered evil when people doing it smile so much?!

**The Banner Says It All!**
Calgary "party girls" David and Darren (centre & left) welcome Robin Lane, of Edmonton's Northern Chaps, to the big Saturday dance.

**Eat Your Heart Out, Lord of the Rings!**
Don't You Wish model Sullivan Alba, coming off stage after winning yet another award!



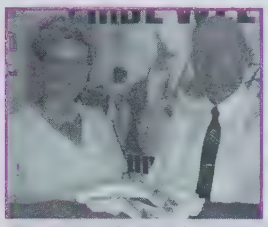
**Not Voted Off**
Fred Udey (far left) with medal-bearing curlers Greg, Darcy and Darren, at the Money-Pennies Survivor bash.



**Heavy Medal**
Members of the Smarties bowling team at the Money-Pennies Western Cup Survivor Party. Pictured from left are Kat, Gloria, Charlene and Sherry.

# Cheques and Changes

*By Outlooks Staff*



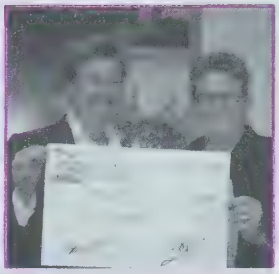
*Then Pride Calgary Chair Keith Purdy presents Colleen Hanna with a donation cheque for the OMCF*

For the first time in its history, the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation has an online home to call its own. Since its creation in January of 2000, the OMCF has only maintained an Internet presence through a link on the *Outlooks* magazine site. Now, on the Web as in life, the foundation stands independent of the publication it was named for. The site, launched in the middle of April, is located at **www.omcf.ca**, and features information on the foundation's history, past grant recipients and the MasterCard affinity program that helps generate funds for dispersal. The application process for foundation support has also been updated and simplified online for greater interaction with the community at large. Now, potential applicants can either review information about eligibility on the site or submit questions directly to representatives of the OMCF board through the 'contact' link. Photos of past cheque presentations and material regarding the foundation's expectations of its beneficiaries can also be found online.

*Past board member David Crosson (right) accepts a donation from the Calgary Networking Club's James Faulkner and Connie Loveday.*

In addition to its new "e-home", the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation has itself undergone a variety of changes. At the 2004 annual general meeting, board co-chair Michael Wright resigned from his position, leaving Judy Munson and James Faulkner as chair and vice-chair, respectively. David Crosson also resigned from the board to free up space for new members. On April 20, the OMCF welcomed new members Carolyn Anderson and Penny Archer to the board; the two joinBrett Taylor, Judy Munson, Colleen Hanna, James Faulkner, David Freeman, Roy Heale and Lorrie Murphy, the last three having been members since the foundation's inception.

*Roy Heale (left) presents inaugural co-chairs Lorrie Murphy and Bill Brooks with a start-up donation from Outlooks magazine*



*VIGOR's Jane Oxenbury (right) accepts a $1,000 donation from OMCF Treasurer Colleen Hanna*

Created in the year 2000 as a means of expanding and strengthening Canada's gay communities, the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation has given financial assistance to such projects as: Small Change... Big Changes, a fundraiser for the Southern Alberta HIV Clinic; the annual Fairy Tales Film Festival, held during Calgary Pride; the launch of a GLBT youth information website; the creation of a male same-sex domestic violence support program; and Téatro Berdache theatre productions. In 2003, with sufficient funds generated within the province, the foundation helped fund its first B.C. project, a youth component to Vancouver's very popular Out On Screen lesbian and gay film festival.

*Then Co-chair Michael Wright presents Téatro Berdache's Steve Gin with a cheque for $1,000*

*CPS Constable Doug Jones, Melissa Luhtanen and Jane Oxenbury pose with an OMCF cheque towards the launch of a new youth resource website.*

Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2004 funding cycle; to inquire about eligibility or to submit a primary application, visit www.omcf.ca for further information.


www.gayedmonton.com

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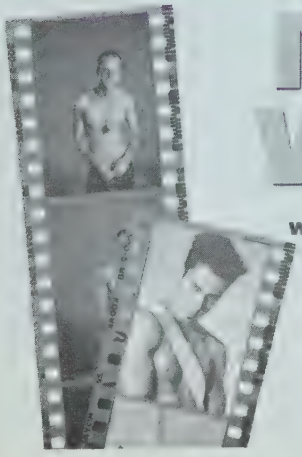

Models Wanted

We are currently seeking Models for future covers and Don't You Wish?

Email a snapshot along with your stats and contact information to:

Main@outlooks.ca

Please note:
Only those submissions of interest will be contacted upon receipt of photos.


Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association

Tel. 403 234 8973
Fax. 403.261.9776

GAY and LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Take Notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association will take place as follows:

**MONDAY, MAY 31, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M**
**OLD Y COMMON ROOM**
**MAIN FLOOR, 223 – 12th AVENUE S.W.**
**CALGARY, ALBERTA**

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to:

1. Accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
2. Receive and act on the reports of the Board of Directors;
3. Accept the audited financial statements and appoint the auditor for the upcoming year;
4. Undertake business pertaining to current and future operations of the Association;
5. Elect the new Board of Directors.

According to the by-laws of the Association, all members in good standing shall be entitled to one vote per member at all General, Special General, and Annual General Meetings of the Association. Membership can be obtained / renewed at the GLCSA office or on location prior to the meeting. A member may appoint a person to represent him or her by proxy at any or all meetings provided that the member has notified the Secretary in writing, of the representatives by proxy at least 24 hours prior to the meeting where it is proposed that the representation by proxy will occur

Following the AGM, guest presenter Dr. Kevin Alderson will discuss his research and his new book:

**Same-Sex Marriage: The Personal And The Political**

By attending the AGM you can make your membership count by participating in discussions and voting (or running) in the election for the next Board of Directors We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the AGM

Danielle Ladouceur
President, Board of Directors

#206, 223 – 12th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0G9

There is something to be said for a boring routine, and we may ache for a little quiet time as May gets underway. All carefully laid plans will upend and scatter when the Sun forms a Grand Cross with Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto this month. Stay centred and make the most of your current incarnation. We may have stable past lives but who remembers them?

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

What you want actually conflicts with what you need right now. The planets will have a way of giving you your medicine whether you like it or not this May. Gay Rams will want to speak their mind to whomever, whenever—but you'll be better off editing your chapter and verse. Even strong thoughts will seep out and take on a life of their own, so perhaps you'd better off letting your mind and hands wander aimlessly...

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

Queer Bulls will be offered a delectable choice of sexual partners this May, but *must you* pick and choose from your stable of friends to find them?! Spur-of-the-moment dalliances will have a price to pay, so choose carefully and critically. The Grand Cross will firmly and forcibly show you who is who and what is what. Remember, some folks like firm and forcible declinations, but many do not.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

Are you finding that the ups and downs of your career are beginning to take on a rollercoaster pattern? Unfortunately, when you feel that you're on a new, enriching path, the Big Bad Wolf will blow your ego down. Hang on tight throughout May, pink Twin, and don't let a professional ride impinge on partnerships. Count the days until Pride month when the heat is off in your career and on in your relationships.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

It's hard to soar with the eagles when the slugs keep pulling you down back to your desk. Pink Crabs will be *long overdue* for a vacation and the temptation to escape too great. And yet you'll keep going and going and going (it's nice to feel important and needed, but it's also nice to pamper yourself every so often). All work and no play makes John and Jane tired and sweaty workhorses.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)**

If your love life is all heat and no fire this May continue to rub two sticks together and keep your sunnyside up. The Grand Cross will seem to make any party feel like the meet-and-greet event of the decade, so get Out there. But don't bite off more than you can chew, tempting though it may be; proud Lions should eat their sweets one at a time to avoid the appearance of gluttony.

**VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)**

Queer Virgins will be forced to balance home and career this May as everything they want suddenly becomes within reach. What will you grab first? Consider moving to a larger residence or expanding your current space now that you can really afford it. This comes none-too-soon—now that you are out of the closet there is no reason to continue to rent one.

**LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)**

Proud Libras are not usually hard-charging, petty bureaucrats but their jobs will make them feel that way this May. Consider the karma you'll create and give folks a reprieve from the rules. Who knows, this tactical retreat may create a new opportunity for you at work that will ultimately bring you a promotion, huge raise and high praise. Then again, maybe not.

**SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)**

Your creative endeavours can pay off this May, so spread your wings and soar to new artistic heights. The juices will flow and your inspiration will know no bounds. How Wilde can you get, gay Scorp? Friends will tempt you to try something or someone new, and it appears that you can get into *all sorts* of mischief if you travel with the wrong crowd. Or could it be, in fact, the *right* crowd?!

**SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)**

Gay Archers can make their home a showplace and hub of activity in May—don't be surprised if you suddenly (and luckily) find yourself as the great gay centre of attention as the paparazzi jostle to capture one of your winning smiles. But balance your privacy with your public persona; my advice is to avoid sunbathing in the nude until your fifteen minutes of fame has passed!

**CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)**

Do you pink Caps hear voices whispering and goading you to greater heights this May? Listen to these muses carefully; they are telling you that it will be no longer possible to walk the straight and narrow. Tell the world who you are, sweetheart, and don't take no for an answer. The Grand Cross will take your passion, opinion and karmic destiny to the Outer limits.

**AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)**

May will push you into a high maintenance, A-list crowd. Before you pay the membership fee, check your bank balance to see if you have money for a cab home. If not, you may find yourself waiting for the first bus, clutching your belongings and looking worse for the wear. Friendship is not always cheap and easy, although some of us prefer it that way...

**PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)**

Guppies may be offered the career opportunity of a lifetime this May but at what personal cost? It will be an intense, all consuming position offering power, money and a potent mixture of comeuppance and revenge—all yours for the taking, but why grab for that? Ultimately, it won't fit with your spiritual, romantic and easygoing persona. At least that's the excuse you'll give...!

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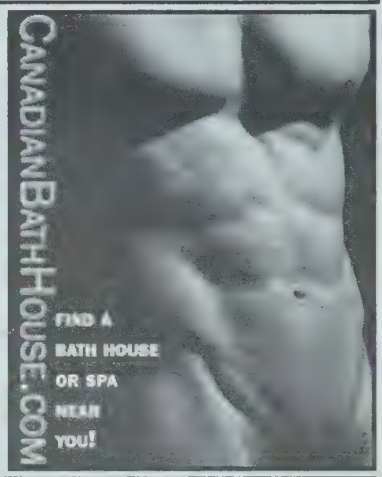

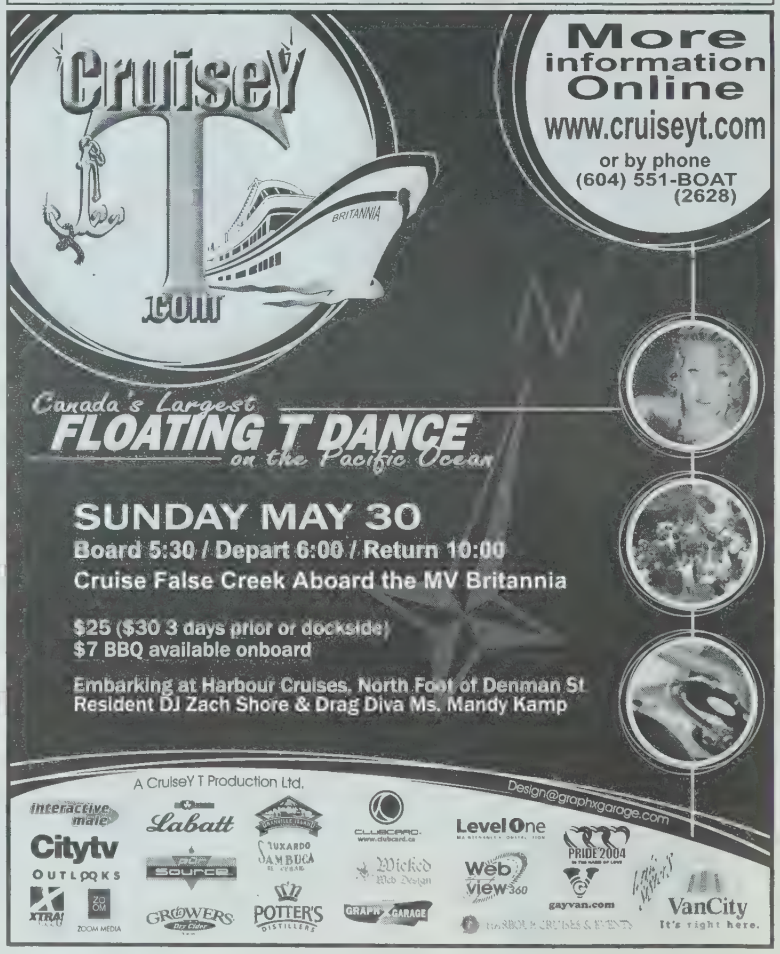

# Stepping out in style

*By Lincoln Phillip*

With warmer temperatures finally here, thoughts are turning to actually "dressing the part" for summer—and that generally means"sandal weather" has arrived. However, after a long winter of being crammed into shoes and socks, there's a fairly good chance that your feet aren't really going to be looking their best. Whether it's part of the new "metrosexuality" or a standby for the *Queer Eye* guys, the male pedicure seems to be here to stay—good news for spas and salons everywhere, not to mention those who like to indulge themselves in every way possible as often as possible. The thing is, how many of us can actually claim to be "old pros" when it comes to the ins and outs of this behind-closed-doors procedure?

I must confess that I recently lost my pedicure virginity. I have always felt awkward about this issue, because the thought of having another human being to clip my toe nails—let alone scraping the calluses off the soles of my feet—just seemed immoral. Perhaps it's because the procedure takes place in a spa or beauty salon, instead of a clinical environment, that it always made me question why someone would be so audacious as to let another human being fix his or her feet when he or she can do it themselves!

I also, however, have heard from friends who had experienced this type of indulgence, friends who have told me "there is nothing more pleasurable than a pedicure, and you will become a regular after your first time."

Oh *really*?

When I was assigned this story, I decided to put aside my apprehensions and make the sacrifice for you faithful readers!

The night before my appointment at Oasis Spa and Wellness Centre—if you're going to "deflower your spa virginity", do it in style—I called up a few friends to find out just how to prepare for the experience. Everyone said that I really didn't have to do anything but show up on time, especially since the esthetician is meant to do everything for you. That sorted (as much as it could be), I took a shower and spent extra time cleaning my toes and feet before anxiously heading for the spa.

Depending on where you go for a pedicure, the cost and experience will vary, but the procedures will remain consistent. Pre-pedicure at Oasis, it is routine for guests to relax in the eucalyptus steam room or dry sauna to calm their nerves and prepare for decadent pampering. This is "quiet time" for most, so leave your cell phone in the locker and just relax.

Julie Peebles, my esthetician for the afternoon, radiated a warmth and friendliness that made me feel quite comfortable, although I must admit that I was still embarrassed to reveal my winter-neglected feet! She assured me that she'd seen it all, and was un-phased by the sight of my calluses and dry cuticles. "You would have to have *really* terrible feet for me to think twice about doing a pedicure. But even the worst feet are a challenge," she said " As long as people's feet are healthy, we'll take care of the rest." For your sake, not to mention your esthetician's, if you suffer from athlete's foot or ingrown toenails get your condition treated before booking a pedicure!

**The Procedure:**

"A typical pedicure takes about an hour, but if you want extras such as a sea salt exfoliation, paraffin waxing or an algae mask then it will take up to an hour and a quarter," Peebles told me. For the uninitiated, here's the 411 on the "basics": sea salt exfoliation removes dead and dry skin cells to rejuvenate the skin, a paraffin wax treatment hydrates the skin, and an algae mask puts nutrients back into the skin. Got it? Good.

The feet are placed in a warm and vibrating foot bath to relax them and soften the skin and nails for cutting. Throughout the pedicure, one foot remains soaked while the other is being treated. Peebles added a mix of essential oils to the bath to prevent my skin from drying out.

The first step is to cut and shape the nails. Peebles told me that it's better not to cut your toenails beforehand, because cutting the nails is part of the procedure and gives an esthetician more to work with. "The best shape for the nails is straight across to prevent ingrown toenails, and do not cut them too short" she said.

The cuticles are then cleaned and trimmed, and the skin around the nails is shaped to even it out and perfect the appearance. The nails are buffed to rid them of any ridges, which smoothes them out and creates shine and definition.

After the nails are treated, then it's on to the soles of the feet to eliminate calluses. "Calluses are developed from applied pressure on the feet; I use a foot file or blade for very thick calluses," Peebles said, adding that a foot file is great to use at home for maintenance. She does, however, discourage people from using a blade on their own feet. "I've seen some very bad cases of cut up feet. Leave the blade to a professional." It's surprising how much dead skin builds up under your feet.

When the time came for my foot and leg massage, I opted for a sea salt exfoliation, to rejuvenate my dry winter skin. After rinsing off the salt, I indulged in a paraffin wax treatment, which was very warm and relaxing. Peebles wrapped each foot in a plastic film then swaddled them individually with a towel to help keep in the heat of the wax. This was left on for about ten minutes to allow the wax to cool and harden. Once the wax falls off (with ease, I might add) it reveals a pair of gorgeous feet! I never knew they had such potential!

Peebles continued the pampering by massaging with a lotion composed of essential oils.

Once complete, she told me that the finishing touch would be nail polish, and assured me that most men *do* go for a clear polish. I could not get over how great my natural nails looked and didn't care to have them lacquered.

I was so impressed by the new state of my feet that I asked Peebles how often people should have a pedicure. She told me that its typical to have a pedicure done once a month, because "...by then the nails need trimming and calluses begin to form."

When I returned to the locker room to get dressed, I sat for a while to admire my feet—they looked amazing and felt so soft! It's true what they say, once you get a pedicure there is no turning back!

Being the style maven that I am, I started to think of this season's sexiest thongs to adorn my new tootsies! For sex appeal, the re-issue of the classic Gucci leather thong or Dolce and Gabanna's one toe strap leather sandal will enhance your new look. Have fun revealing your toes in the new crossover Havaiana in white or colour, or try the Miu Miu leather-soled flip flop with coloured rubber strap. ▼

***Lincoln Phillip is a writer in pursuit of promoting those who bring beauty into the world. He contributes style-related topics to many magazines, and collaborates with Calgary's leading design firms. This style maven hopes to one day have lunch with Anna Wintour.***

# OUTLOOKS Q reviews Books

By John Ayres

*Ultimate Gay Sex*
*By Michael Thomas Ford*
*Published by: DK Publishing*
*Release Date: 2004*

It's interesting to think about the skills we consider "innate", based solely on who or what we are. Take, for example, women and makeup application: a quick glance around any mall will confirm that the successful use of cosmetics is not based on a "yy" pairing of chromosomes. Or how about men and athletic ability? Just imagine Woody Allen with a football and you have your answer. Perhaps one of the most contentious examples of this is gay men and sex; like it or not, none of us has all the answers. And neither, by his own admission, does Michael Thomas Ford, author of the recently released book *Ultimate Gay Sex*.

Ford, well known for his Lambda Award-winning series *Trials of My Queer Life* as well as various advice columns and novels, prefaces his masterwork by emphasizing his role as a mere mortal and tour guide, rather than an expert or some kind of sodomite savant. It's refreshing, this modesty, and, as the book clearly attests, a most effective approach to a subject that is almost always rendered impotent by finger-wagging and holier-than-thou attitudes.

To its credit, the title of *Ultimate Gay Sex* is more than just a little misleading. Much like Daniel Wolfe's 2000 release *Men Like Us*, *Ultimate* offers an holistic approach to navigating life as a gay man. Although he acknowledges that sex is a huge part of what drives us (as non-pc as that may sound to some) Ford's book triumphs because it is willing to explore the other avenues of existence that factor into the acceptance and development of our sexuality, without doing so in a vacuum. For many decades now—centuries, even—homophobes have succeeded in condemning us because they played up the carnal aspect of homosexuality, a strategy that puts the emphasis on practice and preference. In doing so, they were able to reduce our collective identity down to what are essentially matters of choice—a flawed argument, to be sure, but one that by and large proved an "easy sell" to the masses. For our part, post-Stonewall and certainly since the advent of AIDS, many in our community have gone to great lengths to disassociate themselves from a purely sexual identity, preferring to focus on other aspects of what is most commonly referred to as "the gay lifestyle" in order to gain acceptance. Ford, it seems, has done his part to bring this matter full-circle, finding the common ground where both sexual and social behaviour can co-exist comfortably, even exuberantly.

Though he does not always explicitly state it, Ford demonstrates that everything about us—how we socialize, how we age, how we perceive ourselves in the world around us, to name only a few examples—is informed, but not defined, by our sexuality. It's not surprising, then, that discussions on the *mechanics* of sex don't even appear until almost halfway through the book. Instead, the author chooses to start at ground zero—the individual—and work up to matters of intercourse, both social and sexual, from there.

Perhaps the most striking thing about *Ultimate Gay Sex* (other than plentiful and glorious photographic illustrations) is its sense of democracy... or diplomacy, depending on your standpoint. Whether it's a look at coupledom vs. single life or a frank discussion of sexual practices, the tone of the book is neither idealistic nor judgmental. Early on, in a section dedicated to gay image, Ford writes:

*"Deep down, very few of us ever really feel that we've gotten it all right. But I have news. You don't have to get it right. Today being gay means nothing and it means everything. It means you share one fundamentally important thing with a lot of other people. But sharing that one thing also frees you up to become whoever and whatever you want to."*

Despite the author's often-philosophical approach to his subjects, *Ultimate Gay Sex* is anything if not practical. From hook-ups and break-ups to SM play and STDs, the book strives—and manages—to pack a maximum amount of information into a minimum amount of space. In doing so, *Ultimate* retains its edge over many other books of its kind, preferring to either touch on or tease the topics contained within rather than bogging the reader down with an excess of detail. For those in search of more in-depth material, Ford offers comprehensive listings of both print and Web resources, as well as frequent reminders to consult appropriate professionals on a variety of more serious issues. This is not to say, however, that *Ultimate Gay Sex* is in any way trivial or superficial. It isn't. Rather, Ford's book offers an examination of subjects that, by their very nature, invite further examination through other means. Much like the men and mores the author takes on in this book, *Ultimate Gay Sex* is the sum of its parts, a mosaic of diverse experiences, expressions and activities rooted in sexuality. And, on the whole, it's a brilliant effort. ▼


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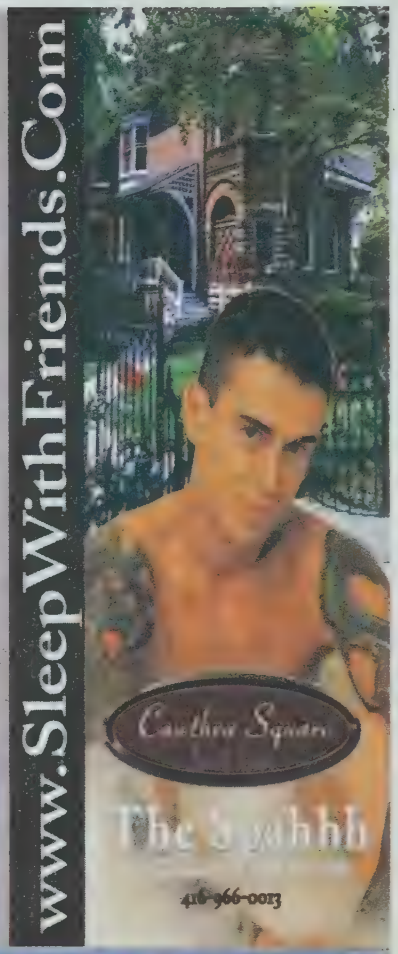

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# Great Scott!

*By David King*

Compared to most Edmonton GLBT community groups, the Northern Chaps is a particular hybrid of its own. The city's leather scene is considerably larger than one might expect, with a strong mix of hetero and gay kink, less bound by gender than other Canadian cities. For close to twenty-five years, the Chaps have been active in nurturing that universal spirit, a diversity to be proud of for 2003's Mr. Edmonton Leather, Scott Bryen.

"There's a cohesion here unheard of in other places in the world," says Bryen. "The leather folk are typically not viewed any differently than, say, circuit boys, twinks and drag queens, and they're well respected. That's drifted right into the hetero community as well".

A liaison and public speaker at the Edmonton O Society (the city's hetero BDSM group), Bryen adds that the society is a staunch supporter of the Chaps, and it's not surprising to see members of both groups socializing at events. The Chaps' other chief support comes from Woody's Pub and Buddy's Nightclub, which usually host their bi-monthly and special events, including the annual Black Ice Night, when the group's executive is elected. In between is a multitude of meetings, parties, special events and fundraisers, often to benefit the larger queer community.

*Git along little stogie: Mr. Edmonton Leather 2003, Scott Bryen*

For Bryen's part, his year in the life of Mr. Edmonton Leather ends this June, when he passes on his sash to 2004's winner. Despite his ongoing modesty, it's been a notably busy year for Bryen. In addition to public speaking, workshops, and the usual attendance at events as an ambassador for the community, Bryen is an outspoken activist, writing articles for the Northern Sash and acting as Prairie Regional representative for the Canadian Leather Alliance, which is currently planning Canada's first National Leather Contest to announce Mr. and Ms Canada Leather. With less going on in Calgary these days (Mr. Calgary Leather has been inactive for two years), there's added pressure to represent the province.

Before he passes the sash, Bryen has bigger fish to fry these days: he's currently preparing to compete for Edmonton at Chicago's International Mr. Leather on Memorial Day Weekend. It's a weekend he's been fundraising for all year, to the tune of $5,000. And, after several successful fundraising events, he's happy to have raised most of it.

"We have one more upcoming fundraiser this May," says Bryen. "The last one we held at Buddy's had a variety of people there. It was very humbling".

Originally, Bryen hadn't thought of competing in the event until he was talked into it by *Ties That Bind* author Guy Baldwin, the renowned psychotherapist and former International Mr. Leather who has become a sort of guru for all things leather. Since then, he's been training for the event, which combines a clever blend of congeniality and physical showmanship.

"It's not a popularity contest like a drag ball," explains Bryen. "The event lasts about five days, and incorporates several bouts of public speaking. Judges watch how you speak on behalf of your community."

That's not to say Bryen hasn't been working out five times a week at two hours a shot for the last twelve months, with a diet aimed at zero fat. With an expected fifteen to twenty thousand in attendance, an international jury of nine and close to eighty competitors, one can expect a lot of gear on display at the upcoming event.

"There's usually four to five floors of vendors at the hotel", Bryen says. "I'll likely be wearing the usual lace up boots, uniform shirt, gloves, wrist guards, sash..."

In between events like "High Protocol Gear" and "Pecs and Personalities", the competition narrows down contestants to twenty before putting them in the hot seat for a ninety-second speech on how they serve their community (as far as I've heard, there's no *actual* hot seat). After four or five appearances in minimal wear and pop questions on just about anything, it's a high-pressure long weekend complete with high-gear events.

So how will Bryen represent Edmonton? What will he say to represent the community? At the moment, he's still pinning it down, but says it will likely be a reflection of the Chaps' own universal spirit. Bryen points me to a quote from one of his articles about community leadership and responsibility, with a mantra close to his heart:

"I will treat everyone with the respect I would expect to be given to myself. In this way I can begin to reclaim the rich history that is our tribe's heritage and in that way encourage our Elders to come out of hiding. I hope to lead by example and encourage others to do the same". ▼

## GLCCE UPDATE

Pursuant to forewarnings earlier this spring, the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE) is no longer. At its Annual General Meeting in March, GLCCE's membership voted to dissolve the organization at the end of July, due in part to lack of growth, inadequate finances and poor participation.

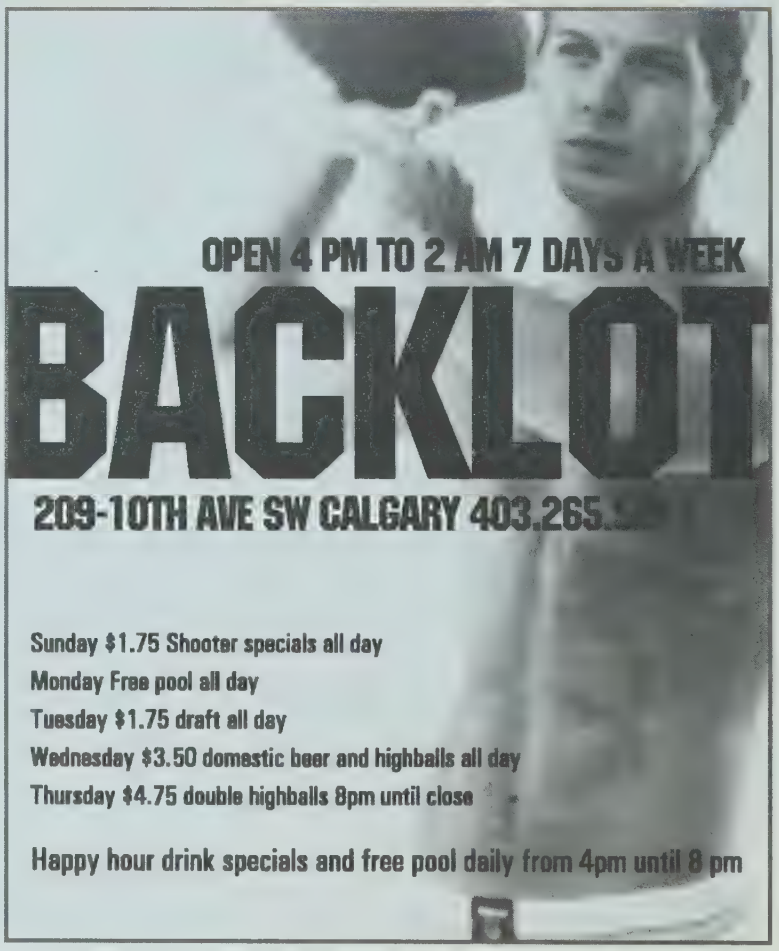
All is not lost. In place of GLCCE's former board, a new, nine-member interim team was established to set up the infrastructure for a new organization that would replace GLCCE immediately after its dissolution. Part advisory committee, part board, the new active executive already held a town hall meeting on April 12 at Edmonton City Hall, where they presented an ambitious new plan based on research and input from Edmonton's GLBT community.

"Our next step is to develop an action plan", assures interim co-chair and spokesperson Kathy Da Silva. "In addition to the plan, the interim board is trying to maintain current services in the best way possible."

Under an umbrella group temporarily called "Pride Centre of Edmonton", the proposed centre will be divided into four areas to better serve the city's GLBT community, relying less on volunteers and more on paid staff. Each department has a temporary working title of its own: the "Pride Health and Human Services Clinic" will be a clinic staffed by health professionals in the community; "Pride Education and Career Services" will continue and expand any current education programs and outreach; "Pride Cultural Services" will provide recreational and facility services and support the centre's operations, and "Pride, the Charity" will be a non-profit group dedicated to giving the centre what it strongly lacked—a charitable framework for fundraising and donations.

As her board establishes its action plan for what some are calling an overly ambitious project, Da Silva was unable to comment outside of releasing a detailed report on the centre's revitalization, insisting all communication remain as transparent as possible for the time being. Da Silva adds all critical information for inquiries can be found on GLCCE's website, located at: www.edmc.net/glcce.

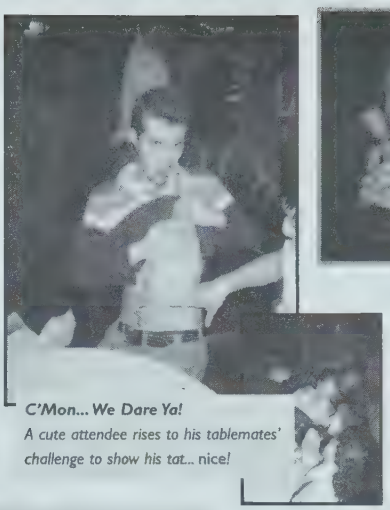
*David King is a freelance journalist currently residing in Edmonton. A writer, performer and director, he is the co-founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions.*



## Idol Talent
ZIPPERZ-CELLBLOCK

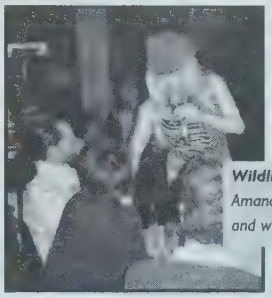
**Panniers and Panache**
*Mad Madeline strikes a pose for the crowd during her Vogue number—eat yer heart out, Mr. Lagerfeld!*

**Maybe He's Like a T-Rex—If We Don't Move, Maybe He'll Go Away...**
*A pair of Idol worshippers strike a pose—and hold it firmly—amidst all the revellry.*



**C'Mon... We Dare Ya!**
*A cute attendee rises to his tablemates' challenge to show his tat... nice!*

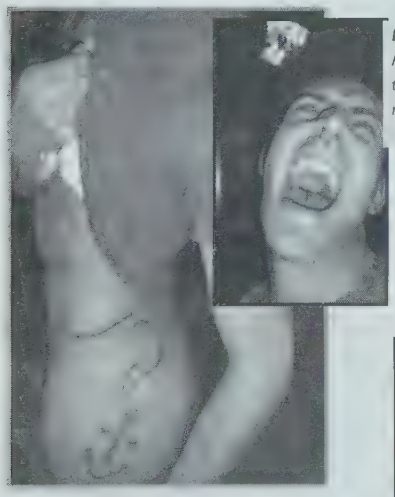
**Mad In the Truest Sense of the Word**
*Mad Madeline makes a new friend—lucky gent!*



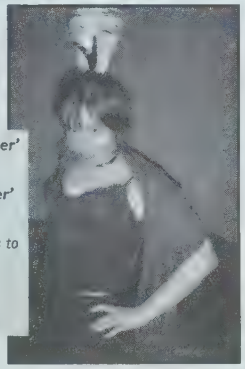
**Wildlife On Safari**
*Amanda Roberts wades into the crowd and works it in her sassy stripes.*

*Planning an event in Toronto? Contact us via e-mail at: editor@outlooks.ca and we'll see about covering it in Out & About. All photos by Rick Matthews*

## Out on the Town
CHURCH STREET

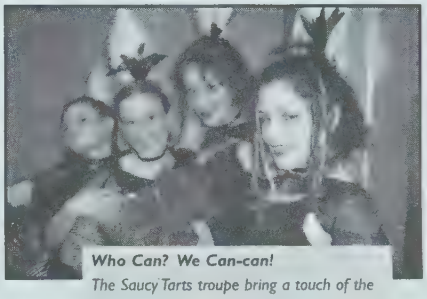


**Feel the Burn**
*Mark re-enacts the drama of his new branding.*



**A 'Come Hither' Look Or a 'Come Feather' Look?**
*Nicola attempts to tickle our photographer's fancy.*

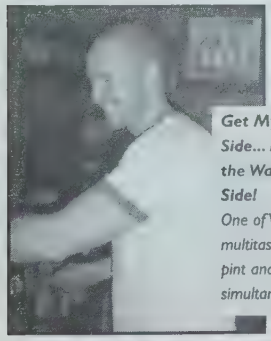
## Grapefruit
TEQUILA LOUNGE



**Who Can? We Can-can!**
*The Saucy Tarts troupe bring a touch of the Moulin Rouge to Grapefruit.*

**If Only Mr. Guevera Loked This Good!**
fab *magazine cover boy and babe-around-town Che, out for a night in the village.*

**Nina and Two Pals**
*The inimitable Miss Arsenault sizes up our lens.*



**Get My Good Side... My Above the Waist Good Side!**
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**I Told You Nana Mouskouri did One of Her Groupies!**
*Is Enza Supermodel Ms Mouskouri's love child? Only Nana knows for sure... Enza is the hostess of the new Miss Moneypenny's at the Mod Theatre.*

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# These lesbo chicks rock!

*By Rick Matthews*

"Two girls. Two guitars. It may have been done before, but not quite like this," reads the bio of Toronto's Vyletz, yet don't rush to compare the lesbian duo to the likes of other rockin' dykes like Calgary natives Tegan and Sara. They don't *mind* the girl rock comparisons, but asking either of the women to define their own sound results in words like "pop", "rock", "folk" and "acoustic" being tossed around with equal measure. However you describe their indie sound, Liz and Michelle are determined to carve their own way to stardom with their eclectic style.

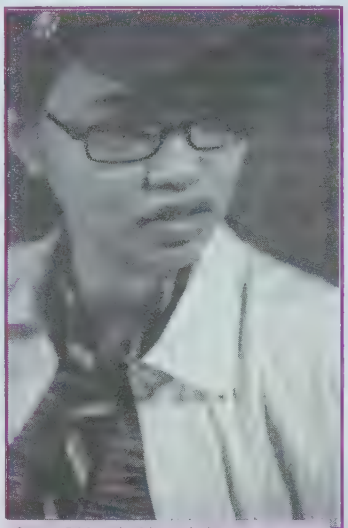
The two met while working for Rogers (as in cable), and it didn't take long for the once-solo artists to decided to take a stab at becoming a duo. The two haven't stopped since. Not long after deciding to collaborate, these two driven singer/songwriters hit the studio with the intention of simply putting together a demo. What unexpectedly came out of that session was Vyletz's 2001 debut album, *Galactic Cherry Delay*, which they recorded in just two hours. In less time than it takes to watch *Lord of the Rings*, the ambitious girls quickly added to their presence on the local alternative music scene. Their union is a case of rock and roll meets Yin and Yang—Liz brings her hard edge to the group while Michelle (or Chelle, as she prefers to be called) offers up her melodic vocals.

Three years after the release of their debut CD, the girls continue to slowly but surely add to their fan-base with their upbeat style. Both Liz and Chelle still work day jobs at Rogers to pay the bills. They spend their spare time booking tours, maintaining their own website, and doing their own promotion. They hope to say "goodbye" to the Rogers gig soon and focus solely on their music. "When we get a Rogers paycheque and we're like 'This is peanuts', we'll be done," says Chelle, "but until then we have to eat these peanuts!"

*Blonde ambition: Vyletz co-founder Liz*

"Like the circus elephants we are!" Liz chimes in.

While they may be "over-worked and under-paid" and "random moments of delirium and temporary insanity" hold them back during the workday, the duo calls their own shots when work ends, especially when it comes to their image. They're not ashamed of their sexuality— quite the opposite. But the two are quick to point out they have "no intention of becoming hardened, angry dyke-fem artists". Liz says they're musicians focused on being "feel-good artists who are a breath of fresh air. It's like turning on the news," she adds, "sometimes you just want to feel good."



*One of Mandy Moore's biggest fans—Chelle*

Don't let their spin fool you: these two can get pissed off in their music. "We're not heart bleeders," says Liz. The track Better than You, off their debut album, oozes the angry residue that sometimes lingers after a messy break up. "I'm not sitting here bitter, thinking of how you screwed me over, cuz' I found someone better to do with my time" is a line that could make *anyone* feel better, unless of course the song's biting lyrics were directed at them.

It's hard to imagine this is the same duo that call themselves "fans" of Jessica Simpson and Mandy Moore... at least until you hear their explanations. "When Jessica said she had to go 'drop the kids off at the pool' that one episode [of *Newlyweds*], that was the funniest thing I've ever heard!" says Liz. Chelle's a fan of Moore because she "doesn't flash her goods around like Britney Spears or Christina what's-her-name."

"C'mon," says Liz, "you just want to get her in bed!"

With the summer music season quickly approaching, Chelle may just have to put off her dreams of time with the lovely Ms Moore. The Vyletz are already busy trying to line up gigs for themselves and pack their schedule as much as last summer, where they performed at festivals and clubs across the province, along with the Pride festivities in Kitchener, Ottawa and Toronto. They've also just acquired a drummer and are attacking new venues around the city now that they have that full band sound many clubs are after.

*Gimme a beat: Vyletz' new drummer Cheryl*

With a new member only just recently thrown into the mix, plans for another album are in the works. They hope to release a new album this year, one with new textures thrown into their mainly acoustic sound. Maybe their new bio will read: Three girls. Two guitars. One drum. Simple proof that lesbo chicks really do know how to rock. ▼

***Rick Matthews is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. With the aim of taking a true look at the diversity of the gay community he's done work for Fab and appeared as a guest-host on SoGayTV.***

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# RBC's community deposits

*By Gerard MacMullin*

Vancouver's dog-eat-dog financial district seems an unlikely setting for a discussion on faith, hope and charity, but that's exactly what's happening on the 36th floor of the imposing Royal Bank tower.

In a meeting room usually reserved for high-stakes deal-making, RBC Financial Planner Cheryl Friesen and Account Manager Brent Bazinet are focused on gay equality, diversity, health, and women's issues. A floor-to-ceiling wall of glass offers a breathtaking view of some of Canada's priciest real estate, but Friesen and Bazinet seem oblivious to the panorama as they outline Royal Bank's recent gift of $23,500 to four high-profile groups in the gay community.

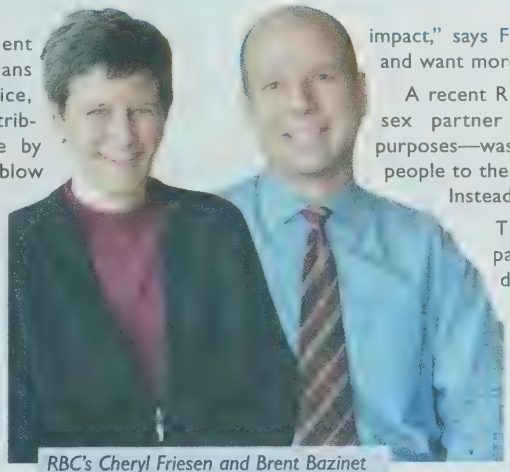
That a big bank would even *consider* supporting GLBT causes is an amazing turn of events. In the not-too-distant past, after all, most gays and lesbians remained hidden in the closet when dealing with Canada's ultra-conservative financial institutions.

"Those days are gone," says Friesen, who describes today's open door attitude as "a huge achievement [that's] making a difference in the lives of a lot of people."

**The banks get little credit for being among the first employers to offer same-sex benefits or for diversity policies which for years have protected the rights of gay and lesbian employees.**

It's an achievement that many Canadians don't seem to notice, something Bazinet attributes to a reluctance by the big banks to "blow their horns in public..."

"Banks generally don't do that, and certainly RBC doesn't," he says, "but the fact is, Royal Bank...[is] the largest corporate giver in Canada."



RBC's Cheryl Friesen and Brent Bazinet

When banks make the news, it's usually for their record high profits, increasing service fees, or complaints about their lending or cheque cashing policies. Rarely are they lauded for their key role in the economy, or the tens of thousands of jobs they provide. The banks get little credit for being among the first employers to offer same-sex benefits or for diversity policies which for years have protected the rights of gay and lesbian employees.

Despite the negative press, they usually give anyway.

The Royal Bank was the largest corporate donor to Vancouver's Dr. Peter Centre, with a gift of $150,000 dollars. The bulk of the recent $23,500 package from the RBC Foundation is again, earmarked for people living with HIV. Funding was approved for The Centre, A Loving Spoonful, Friends For Life and AIDS Vancouver.

"Funding is a constant struggle for non-profit agencies," stresses Executive Director Sue Moen of A Loving Spoonful, and says in a release that she's happy to have the support because "every dollar counts." Her organization provides free meals to people living with HIV and AIDS in the Vancouver area.

Stephen Smith of AIDS Vancouver says his group is "thrilled to receive this grant," which will be used to support food bank services. "RBC has been a strong supporter of World AIDS Day for years," he adds.

Donna Wilson, Executive Director of The Centre, will use the funds to improve delivery of "information, referral and peer support services." Friends For Life will direct its grant to the Home Team program, which works to improve and extend the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Bazinet says it's important for community groups to know that funding is available, especially for operating budgets and programs. "I think, though, what's really nice about working with these organizations is that we don't just suggest they apply, but we actually work with them through the application process," he says.

In addition to community grants, and its support for gay and lesbian staff members, RBC is helping GLBT customers understand how evolving legislation can affect their personal finances. "Not everybody is aware of the impact," says Friesen, who feels customers need, and want more information.

A recent RBC session—how to claim a same-sex partner as a spouse for income tax purposes—was expected to attract about fifty people to the Coal Harbour Community Centre. Instead, more than 200 showed up.

The bank has published an eight-page pamphlet for same-sex couples, dealing with financial and estate planning, powers of attorney, trusts, life insurance and mortgages.

Bazinet says RBC offers services especially tailored for their gay and lesbian customers because the bank knows the market so well. "Companies will spend a lot of money promoting themselves, but haven't really taken the time to determine what the product offerings should be," he says. "It's easy to be able to say 'treat everybody the same and treat everybody with respect,' but it's much more difficult to actually implement, because different people have different needs."

He says RBC has been involved from the beginning in the long process of developing and serving the GLBT market, and "this is the very culmination of it—the giving."

Despite the sea change in attitude and the dollars flowing into the community, some people still feel the banks could do more. Bazinet admits it's one step at a time.

"People may say this isn't going to change the world," he concludes, "but I think it makes a big difference."

*Gerard MacMullin is a writer broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.*

# Five fabulous "fakes"

*By Lino DiNallo*

It's always nice when you have a chance to "get away from it all". However, more often than not, time and money is a bigger consideration than where to go, or what to do—although that doesn't mean you have to sit at home lamenting if you can't make a "proper" escape this summer. The solution? Fake-ations: quick and easy activities that can make you *feel* like you've been on holiday after only a short period. Here are five ways to squish the travel bug in twenty-four hours or less...

*Island life: beautiful Bowen*

**5. Bowen Island**

You can see it from the Pansy Patch at English Bay, but few realize how accessible Bowen Island really is. For a very reasonable $25, you can depart from the foot of Denman Street on Harbour Cruises (**www.boatcruises.com/bowen.html** or call 604-688-7246). You can set sail for an hour-and-a-half each way, with three hours on the island (insert Gilligan joke here) and, for an additional $25, you may also enjoy a guided Rainforest Walking Tour and picnic lunch.

Alternatively, you can drive to Horseshoe Bay or catch the #250 bus on Georgia Street; both methods allow you to enjoy the scenic route along Marine Drive. From there, the B.C. Ferries journey is only twenty minutes and walk-on passengers pay only $6 round-trip (park your car at the terminal for $8). Schedules are available online at **www.translink.bc.ca** and **www.bcferries.com**.

Once you hit Snug Cove, head up the road for gelato or a lazy lunch at Doc Morgan's Pub. If you're feeling feisty rent a kayak by taking a hard right at the ferry terminal. Or head up the road to Crippen Park for a lovely stroll around Killarney Lake. All are far removed from urban life.

*The outstanding Aberdeen Centre*

**4. Aberdeen Centre, Richmond B.C.**

I once had a classmate from Brunei whose jet-set mother went on regular shopping excursions to Singapore and Hong Kong (mine took me to $1.49 Day at Army & Navy). If you haven't the time or money for a trans-Pacific flight, head to the completely rebuilt Aberdeen Centre in nearby Richmond (4151 Hazelbridge Way, **www.aberdeencentre.com**). where you can experience the Orient without the jet lag.

Designed by Vancouver's own Bing Thom Architects, the new mall's exterior isn't just a façade, but a shimmering and all-encompassing art installation named Pixel. Inside, many shops have yet to open but the selection already includes fine boutiques, a market, and most importantly: a Japanese phenomenon called The Daiso. I can only describe The Daiso as a toonie store-cum-department store on steroids. They offer everything from cookies to stationery to china, and it all sells for only $2 apiece. I picked up some typically unusual Japanese note cards, some of which had bears in a hot-air-balloon below utter nonsense slogans like "Sky Trip make relaxation pleasant". Also worth checking out are the plastic Star Trek booties for mopping your floor and their full range of Japanese CDs.

*Try the hotdogs! Vancouver's infamous Wreck Beach*

**3. Wreck Beach, UBC**

If you *haven't* experienced our clothing-optional beach you cannot fathom what you're missing. Lose your inhibitions; let down your guard (and shorts) and step into Vancouver's own Sandbox of Eden. With vendors selling everything from beer to beads to haircuts in the buff ("Just a little off the cooch please!"), and beachcombers collecting empty cans, it seems a complete economy operates on the water's edge.

Two vendors in particular will give you a fake-ation experience to remember. Empanada lady (listen for the call of "Presh Bay-ked Empa-nah-das!") brings me back to Puerto Vallarta as she roams the beach, bellowing in her thick accent with a Thermos cooler in tow. Then there's Watermelon Girl, aptly named for her painted boobies, who quenches your thirst with infused watermelon slices that test your kidneys' endurance. But if you *really* want to feel like you've been on a trip, kick back and enjoy one of her "Perfect For Teenager" cookies. They're ...umm—out of this world!

**2. Spa Day at The Pan Pacific Hotel, Canada Place**

*It does get better than this—we just don't know where! Poolside at the Pan Pacific*

With the recent invasion of Korean nail salons, lit by their glow of neon signs and fluorescent tubes, it seems pedicures in Vancouver have turned into a commodity rather than an indulgence. Those tubes hardly exude Zen tranquility, so why not round up some friends and book pedicures, massages or facials at the Pan Pacific Hotel (**www.vancouver.panpacific.com**, 604-662-8111). With your appointment, you're entitled to use of the entire facility that day, so whether you arrive early or linger afterwards, you'll get to kick back poolside at a five-diamond waterfront property while staff brings you and your entourage round after round of cocktails. Now *that's* tranquility!

**1. The Midnight Run to Seattle**

If Saturday night feels barren now that *Sex and the City* is over, but you can't fathom another night with the locals, it might be time for a road-trip. It's not the White or Black Party, but when you head to Seattle, you'll be fresh meat on a big dance floor... what's not to like?

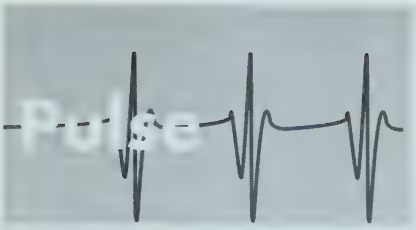
*The crowd at the cuff: more than enough!*

On the way, hit Burlington's Krispy Kreme, just past Bellingham. Grab a dozen and a round of lattes; by the time you park in Seattle, your carb-laden sugar fix will have you revved up for the night like Courtney Love.

At The Cuff (1533 East 13th, **www.thecuff.com**), everybody from shirtless muscle boys to twinkies to big bad leather daddies feels at home. You could also hit Timberline (1828 Yale, **www.timberlinespirits.com**), where Saturday night is "Circuit Dance". Seattle's own cutie-patootie DJ Bill Bennett spins on July 17th.

Finally, if you forgot to pick a designated driver, sober up at Club Seattle (**www.clubsea.com**). If crashing in a bathhouse isn't tacky enough, why not up the ante? Don towel-turbans in the steam room and give each other avocado facials with cucumber eye-masks. And if you're still around in the morning, Broadway Grill (314 Broadway East) serves up a dirty-licious brunch buffet to leave you stuffed like a piggy all the way home. ▼

*Lino DiNallo is a Vancouver-raised, Toronto-trained writer with a London-based advertising agency. He is now accepting donations for his globe-trotting fund.*




*By Pat Johnson*

**High hopes for Pride** Mark your calendars for this year's Vancouver Pride Week, which runs July 24 to August 2. This year's theme is "In the Name of Love" and promises to revive some of the beloved events of the past, including Picnic in the Park, at Prospect Point in Stanley Park. As well, Pride 2004 will feature some new things, like the Terry Wallace Memorial Breakfast August 1 in Nelson Park and Queerstock, five nights of acoustical music in Alexandra Park. The parade itself is August 1, (always at noon!) with the festival at Sunset Beach after. To get us in the mood, organizers have revived what had become an east side institution, the Stonewall Festival, which will take place June 26 in Grandview Park on Commercial Drive.

**A four-hour tour!** Cruisey-T is back for another raucous, sexy season on the high seas. Mandy Kamp and Vivian von Broken Hymen will entertain on the jaunt up Indian Arm, May 30, from 6 to 10 p.m. The sailor set will also head out on Pride weekend, with special trips August 1 and 2, along with a regular schedule throughout the summer. Book your passage to Indian Arm at **www.cruiseyt.com**.

**Bear with me** Numbers is now the regular location of a "Bear Beer Bust", the first Friday of each month (this month on May 7, beginning at 9 p.m.) For those who like a little leather with their beer, you'll want to be at Numbers on May 21, after 9 p.m., for Leather Loft.

**Boys (and girls) of summer** May 2 marks the opening game of the West End Slo-pitch Association, a league of our own. Ever-popular, the league is still welcoming new members (e-mail Rick@wesa.net) and the public is always welcome to cheer on the players. Upcoming events (off the diamond) include the Miss WESA Pageant, July 17, and the Pride Challenge Softball Games and BBQ on July 31.

**Down Denman way** The Denman Freehouse is the location for a weekly fundraiser for A Loving Spoonful. The Loving Lounge is hosted by Willie Taylor, with a dollar from every draft beer going to the organization that delivers 100,000 free meals to people living with HIV and AIDS in the Lower Mainland. Be there Tuesdays, beginning at 9 p.m. The Freehouse is located at 1780 Davie, at Denman.

**Danger Bay Area** *The San Francisco Chronicle* calls it "brutal, raw, cathartic and redemptive." *The Bay Area Reporter* calls it "writing as therapy, as art, as rebellion." The book is *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Survival* and its editor, Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) will read excerpts at Little Sisters May 7, at 7 p.m. The visit is part of the Crash Indie Writers' Fest. Mattilda says the book "goes beyond the recovery narrative to create a new queer literature of investigation, exploration and transformation. This book explores how abuse turns queer survivors—of all genders—into healers, heartbreakers and homicidal maniacs." Yes, well, a little light reading perhaps! Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear the words of a genre that seems poised to alter our literary landscape. Mattilda is the author of *Pulling Taffy* and the editor of *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients* and *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation.*

**What are the cows wearing?** Vancouver Men in Leather tell me their new website is up and ready for viewing, thanks to webmaster Steven Nesbitt and webmistress Elaine Miller. The group's future events will be listed on the site and pics from some of their rambunctious past events can be accessed! Visit them online at **www.vancouvermeninleather.com**.

**Book your Bard** Love is in the air. Gay marriage is a top newsmaker, but old-fashioned heterosexual pairing is Topic 'A' at Bard on the Beach, which just announced its line-up for this summer's 15th season of Shakespearean fun. Running June 3 through Sept. 26, Bard is featuring the romantic *Much Ado About Nothing* and the comedic *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. This year has an added bonus, with the tragic *Macbeth* in the smaller, more intimate Douglas Campbell Studio Stage tent. For tickets, click **www.bardonthebeach.org** or call (604) 739-0559.

**And now, a big finish...** Fit for a Queen, the magnificent Vegas-style drag extravaganza takes place this year on May 10, at the Stanley Theatre (doors at 7, show at 8). Hosted by Nicola Cavendish and Allan Morgan, the event will feature Vancouver's top female impersonators, all of whom donate their time for the Shooting Stars Foundation, which in turn benefits AIDS service organizations. Slated to appear are the biggest names in local drag, including Carlotta Gurl, Hope Diamond, Joan-E, Iona Whipp and Helena Handbag. Tix $25/30 at Little Sisters, Arts Club box office and Ticketmaster.

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# Honeymoons fit for a queen

By Pat Johnson

To generations of British Columbians and newlyweds from around the world, Victoria has held a charm as a place to celebrate newly affirmed love. There's something about the island city's Old English style, with innumerable gardens and double-decker buses, that appeals to our sense of romance. This is especially true in springtime, when Victoria practically explodes with colours and foliage, and the city does double duty as both the provincial capital and the honeymoon capital. And, with the advent of gay marriage in Canada (or at least B.C., in this case), staid old Victoria may get a dose of colour *apart from* the tulips!

For us, Victoria seemed like the place to go after our quiet and beautiful wedding ceremony last month. We happen to live in Tsawwassen, where the ferries leave for the ports of southern British Columbia, including Swartz Bay, near Victoria. Getting there is half the fun when travelling to Vancouver Island; the ninety-minute cruise takes you through some of the world's most glorious scenery, edging around other ships, fishermen and sailboats as you skim between the Gulf Islands. The moment you disembark the ferry, the distinctive geography of the island is evident, from the arbutus trees with their paper-like bark to the jutting rocks that add character to the parks and front yards of the island.

Victoria's natural beauty has been well complemented by architects, arbourists and artists, who have created buildings, sculptures, parks and gardens that draw visitors who like to mix more than a bit of nature with creature comforts. Victoria defines the West Coast lifestyle, offering visitors so many choices that it can be a challenge to plan your trip. For those into outdoor pursuits, Victoria has water galore—freshwater and saltwater fishing and diving, whale-watching and other wildlife viewing opportunities abound. On land, there's golf (Victoria gets a fraction of Vancouver's notorious rainfall), garden tours and the world-renowned Galloping Goose trail, which is a must-ride for serious cyclists. (A pal who has done it says Victoria may appear less "hilly" than the mainland, but the Galloping Goose was more challenging than she had anticipated.) Victoria is also the provisioning point for many of the hikers who attempt the West Coast Trail, an arduous and magnificent (I'm told) trek up the west side of Vancouver Island.

Victoria is also the beginning of the line for the historic E & N Railway. Standing for Esquimalt and Nanaimo, the E & N was completed in 1886 (That's ancient history by West Coast standards) and the last spike was pounded by none other than Sir John A. MacDonald himself. For train buffs, its route through Duncan, Chemainus, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo and Mount Washington offers stunning vistas and a peek into First Nations history, the local forestry industry and maybe the peal of bagpipes at a stop in Nanaimo's Bastion, an 1853 fortification.

*Empress-ive sight: the grande dame of Victoria's hotels*

Victoria has always been a big museum city. Perhaps it's the unique colonial history of the region—it was, among other things, an important stop for gold rushers headed for Alaska 150 years ago—and the Royal British Columbia Museum is the jewel in the crown. Beginning this July, the museum hosts "Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art form the British Museum"—the only western Canadian and Pacific Northwest location for what is billed as a remarkable exhibit.

Victoria is also home to the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, the Naval and Military Museum (at CFB Esquimalt) and Craigdarroch Castle (originally the home of the coal baron who built the E & N). Then there's the Royal London Wax Museum, which is a whole other experience. Peopled by replicas of royalty, politicians and Hollywood elite, the museum has been a fave of visitors, especially kids, who have marvelled over the years at the particularly grotesque dungeon of horrors.

Butchart Gardens is the world-renowned monument to the flora and fauna of Vancouver Island, enlivening an old 130-acre quarry site with seasonally adjusted sights. But you don't need to pay or travel out of the city's heart to view Victoria's flora: Beacon Hill Park, in downtown's James Bay neighbourhood, is an afternoon delight. To get more of a feel for the coast, a drive through the miles of shore along Dallas Road provides not only some of the natural wonders, but some of the architectural and historic treasures of Victoria's older and wealthier 'hoods. For an impressive

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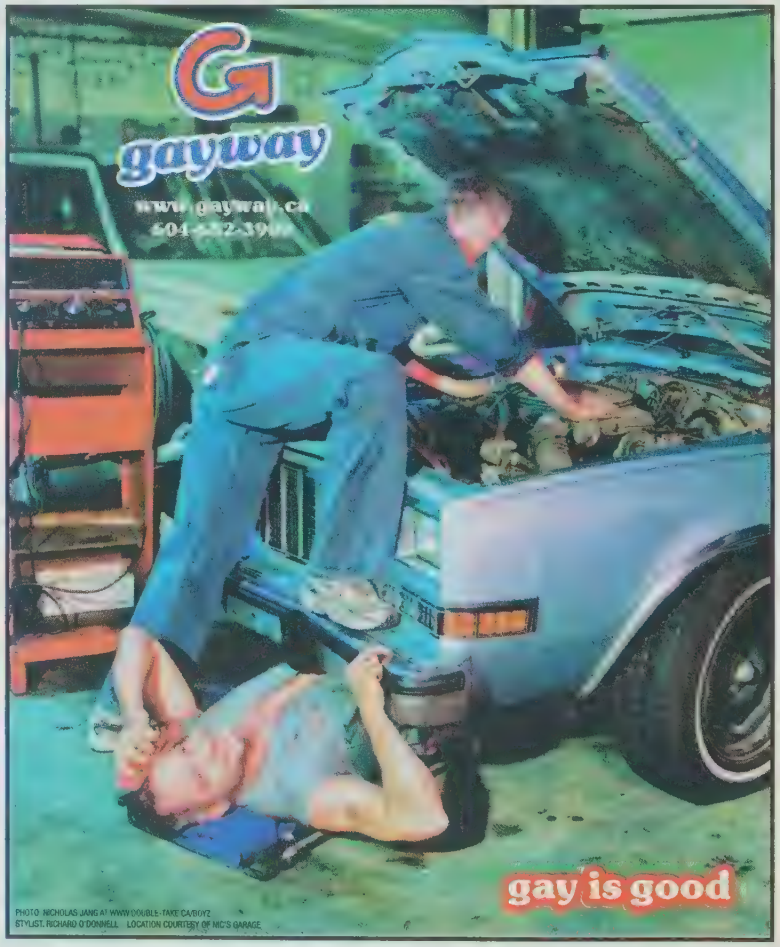

from previous

and inexpensive glimpse of the high life, take a round-trip on a city transit bus through the Uplands neighbourhood. The houses are spectacular and you might even recognize the settings of some of Hollywood North(west)'s more memorable series and television commercials.

Suffice to say, Victoria has indoor and outdoor activities for all interests. But we were on our honeymoon and looking for a little extravagance. And when generations of British Columbians and other newlyweds have sought extravagance, their eyes have turned to Victoria's majestic Empress Hotel. There are other fabulous places to stay in Victoria—the Magnolia (a stone's throw away from the Empress), Laurel Point, the new Coast Harbourside and the recently re-done Hotel Grand Pacific among them—but for Paul and I, there was something especially perfect about a weekend at the Empress. The imposing Chateau-style hotel is wrapped up in the lore of Canadian history and we, in our small way, were celebrating a monumental historic event of our own, at a time in Canadian history when truly historic social progress is being made. (Even though Paul nixed the "Just same-sex married" sign I wanted to put on the car.)

*Inner beauty: the view of the harbour from the Empress Hotel*

The Fairmont Empress shares the vista of the capital city's Inner Harbour with B.C.'s Parliament Buildings; the two landmarks were designed by the same architect and were meant to be complementary. (There's intrigue here, too. In addition to the ghosts said to haunt the halls of the Empress, the architect, Francis Rattenbury, was famously libidinous, but so, it turned out, was his second wife and Rattenbury met his end at the hands of his own chauffeur—his wife's lover.)

The hotel was named for Queen Victoria, in tribute to her role as colonial empress of India, and the Empress makes much of the connection, both to Victoria (the queen) and to India. History is *everywhere* in the Empress, including memorabilia from countless Royal visits and Hollywood sightings. As well, the Empress has spent much of the last century as the province's *de facto* seat of power—top politicians have lived in the hotel over the years and the restaurants and lounges of the sprawling hotel are ideal for discreet meets. Which, to bring it back to us, is pretty much what we were looking for.

Like the other hotels and resorts built in Canadian railway style, it's easy to get lost in the maze of hallways and floor plans. We found our way, though, being rewarded with a bottle of Champagne and a silver tray of chocolate-dipped strawberries once inside our opulent honeymoon suite on the Fairmont Gold floor, where romantic music was playing as we entered the room. Fairmont Gold guests have access to a luxurious lounge on the floor, with hors d'oeuvres at night and a fine breakfast in the morning.

We did the Victoria thing in the afternoon, wandering the Inner Harbour and poking around the shops and curiosities of the charming, quiet downtown. We didn't indulge because we had dinner planned in the hotel's traditional dining room, but ReBar—yes, the one that spawned the now-famous cookbook—is located in downtown Victoria and reportedly lives up to its fabulous reputation. Other brilliant dining opportunities abound, including the very informal Barb's Fish & Chips on Fisherman's wharf (sea lions occasionally stop by to beg) and Spinnakers in the Songhees district, which offers fabulous, fresh food and a spectacular view of the Parliament Buildings as they light up at night. Also be sure to check out Market Square, a multilevel collection of restaurants and stores located near the waterfront, and the many other shops located adjacent. Government and Fort streets are both great for shopping, the latter being an antique enthusiast's dream.

As for our dinner, however, we had made our choice and were glad for it. The Empress Room chef, Rob Cleland (who has apparently become something of a Victoria institution himself) says he "eats, sleeps and breathes food"—welcome to the club! Dinner was a stroll through a gallery of his glorious creations, though his food was not the only art. The Empress Room is steeped in tradition and has succeeded in recreating what appears to be a truly Victorian dining room, while avoiding the potential for dowdiness. The room is monumental, befitting the hotel itself, and the food lives up to the room.

My wild sockeye with root vegetable gratin and Paul's New York steak were both excellent, but it was the pleasant and unexpected flairs that made the meal perfect. An "amuse bouche" and sorbet led us from course to course, beginning with the surprising delight of cold cauliflower soup, a demi-tasse of cream-rich white velvet so unique I will never look at the lowly cauliflower with quite the same nonchalance. The evening ended (the dining part, anyway) with the chef's special-ordered chocolate souffle, which I will not, in futility, attempt to justify with words, and three ribbons of magnificent creme brule, each flavoured by a different liqueur. After dinner, we visited galleries and shops in the Empress itself, which offer the works of some of the finest west coast artists, including innovative First Nations sculptures and masks.

But perhaps the defining Empress experience is Afternoon Tea. Served at lunchtime in the vast open portico off the hotel's main lobby, tea is served, apparently, as it was a century ago in London or its finer colonial outposts. There's tea, and it's good, but you're really there for the cucumber finger sandwiches and scones, which are served with Jersey cream (a cousin of Devon cream, but sweeter) and preserves. These are followed by exquisite *petit fours*, which I attempted to consume with the restraint and delicacy they deserved.

This July, the hotel's Bengal Lounge celebrates its 50th birthday (though under different names). Remember those old movies where gentlemen sip brandy and smoke pipes in club chairs surrounded by lush fabric-covered walls and dark woods? The Bengal Lounge started life as the hotel's "reading and writing room," became one of just three liquor-licensed establishments in Victoria during the uptight 1950s. In 1967, it was revamped to reflect Queen Victoria's traditional role as Empress of India. A curry buffet, live jazz and an imaginative drink menu are on offer to guests who sit in rattan furniture below ceiling fans amid the trappings of colonial India. (The Victorian colonial theme continues in Kipling's, an airy but elegant buffet and à la carte dining room that's, let's say, a *tad* less formal than the Empress Room.)

The Empress has caught the eye of *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine, which has declared it one of the best places to stay in the world three out of the last four years, and *Travel and Leisure* magazine readers voted it one of the world's top 500 properties.

Two years ago, the Empress opened its new $6-million Willow Stream spa, with healing mineral waters and a range of personal services. Even *without* a visit to the spa, our weekend passed like we were floating on a cloud. Though it was over too soon we will carry the memory, as generations of newlyweds have done before us, of the first glorious hours of married life spent in the blissful lap of everything-done-right luxury. Until the 1980s, there were a number of elderly ladies who lived in the hotel. Known as the Empress Dowagers, one imagines they had a fairly delightful existence living out their years in the luxury we tasted for just a weekend. Perhaps Paul and I will be back to revive the dowager tradition in a few years.

**IF YOU GO**

B.C. Ferries takes passengers and cars from Tsawwassen (about forty minutes south of Vancouver) to Swartz Bay (about thirty minutes north of Victoria) about a dozen times a day, depending on the season. Schedules, fares and alternate routes are available online at **www.bcferries.bc.ca**.)

For more on the ancient Egypt exhibit opening in July, visit the Royal B.C. Museum site at **www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca**.

General information about Victoria, and links to book specific travel plans can be found at **www.tourismvictoria.com**.

Victoria isn't a big gay destination in the conventional sense—there's a couple of gay-friendly spots and the locals have their clubs and meetings—but it is a city that appeals to the artsy side of us all, gay *or* straight. Updates event listings for Victoria's small but vibrant GLBT community (and visitors) can be found at **www.gayvictoria.com**.

A "Lover's Escape" package is offered this season at the Empress, beginning at $319 for a one-night visit, including dinner in the Empress Room. For more about the Empress or the Fairmont chain, visit **www.fairmont.com**. If that's not in your budget, Victoria has a vast range of accommodations (as previously mentioned), much of it right in the few blocks around the Inner Harbour, adjacent to almost everything you want to see. The Victoria accommodations reservations hotline can be reached at 1-800-663-3883.

Victoria is a restaurant city and local ingredients like white asparagus (in season during our visit) and a variety of seafood and game, are the highlights of many local menus. The best advice is always to forage, but the fish and chips are a specialty of this English-themed city and the ethnic restaurants that have sprung up in recent years offer variety well beyond the English standbys one might have been limited to a few decades ago. ▼

***Pat Johnson is a communications consultant and a freelance writer for a variety of publications.***

# vancouver classifieds

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German gay guy. 6', 160lbs. In good shape, not so much in the scene. Down to Earth, but romantic. Into music, theatre, sports, travel, outdoors and something more. Would like to find a friend in Canada. Please contact Gerd Danschke. Kevelohbusck 29A, 45277 Essen, Germany.

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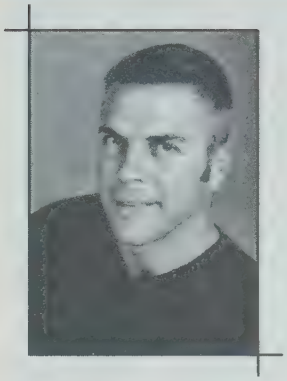

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# Community Chest

## Upcoming Events:

**May 6** — **That's No Lady! - Live, Wired & Tucked**
Tapinis, 19 Water Street - , Special Guest Gouda Gabor from Budapest - Female impersonation at Door 8:00PM $10 in advance, $13 @ the door. Proceeds to benefit A loving Spoonful.

**May 8** — **Pancakes for Pride**
At the Oasis Pub 1240 Thurlow street. Proceeds to benefit the Vancouver Pride Society.

**May 30** — **Cruisy T First Monthly Cruise**
6:00pm sale time $25 in advance - $30 at the boat. Partial proceeds to benefit the Vancouver Pride Society.

## Monies Raised Last Month

**Over the past 3 months, Sugar Daddy's has hosted several fundraising events including Oscar night and NHL nights - raising approximately $1,000 to benefit the Rogues Rugby Club.**

**The annual "Dining Out For Life" event with 150 participating restaurants has raised approximately $120,000 to benefit A Loving Spoonful & Friends For Life.**

## Thanks to the Vancouver Community for your support!

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Oscar Wilde

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# RSVP

## National GLBT Writing Competition

## $1000 Cash Prize!

* Stories submitted can be either narrative or written in the first person. Please bear in mind that this is a fiction competition, so work based in real-life must differ enough from actual, identifiable people and events in order to qualify. Obvious works of non-fiction will be automatically disqualified.

* Submissions must fall within the 1,500 maximum word count. All entries over the limit—even by a single word—will be automatically disqualified.

* All stories must be submitted in a PC-friendly manner, either in Word or Word.doc formats. Stories submitted in the body text of an e-mail, or in any format other than those previously specified, will be automatically disqualified.

* Electronic entries should be submitted to: rsvp@outlooks.ca and must be received by midnight on July 31st, 2004, without exception.

* Even though submissions are being accepted electronically, a hard copy of each story must also be submitted by post. Hard copy entries must be postmarked on or before July 31st, 2004, and should be sent to *Outlooks*' mailbox at:

Box 439, Suite 100 1039 17th. Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2T 0B2

* Hard copy submissions will become the property of *Outlooks* and, without exception, will not be returned to entrants. First and second runners-up will have their stories published (without remuneration) in the October and November issues of *Outlooks*, respectively. The winning story will appear in the December 2004 edition.

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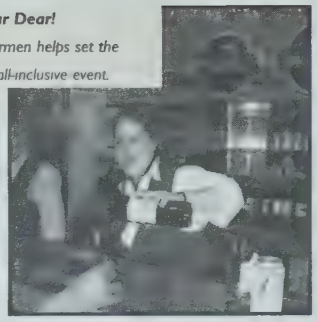
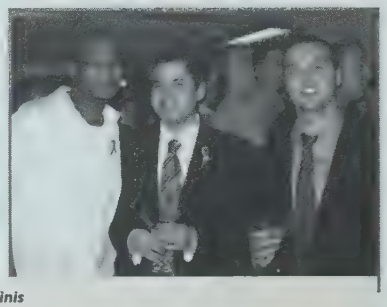
**From A-List to Zena**
*Calgary Cares brought out a record number of supporters for the 2004 event, garbed in everything from pinstripes to cleavage-enhancing couture. Pictured here are Lorie and Ken*

**Oh, You Pour Dear!**
*Bartender Carmen helps set the mood at the all-inclusive event.*



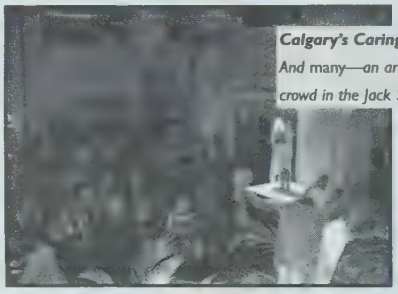
**What Has Six eyes, Three Mouths and Nine Pairs of Pantyhose?**
*Well, that'd be (from left) Laura, Tina and Shayelle, in case you hadn't noticed—"a bevy of lovelies" would have also been accepted as a right answer.*

**One of These Things is Just Like the Other**
*A Channel personality and show M.C. Dave Kelly (left) with brother Rob, post-performance. Hmmmm... think their mama made 'em drink their milk?!*



**Ties 'n' 'Tinis**
*Next to Ken (centre) and Shane, it seems Chima (left) is the odd man out in an open-collared shirt... someone get this man a martini!*

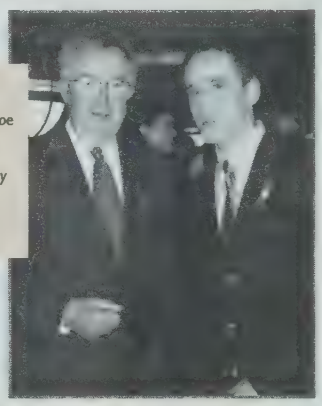
# CALGARY CARES 2004
# SEASONS

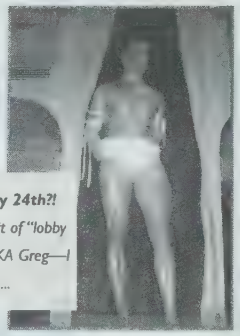


**Calgary's Caring Few...**
*And many—an arial view of the capacity crowd in the Jack Singer lobby.*

**Using Their 'Flash'**
*Jocelyn (centre) relies on satin and a smile, while Mikiki (left) and Stewart are content to flash their pearly whites.*

**Downtime Joe**
*Even when he was leader of the PC Party, Joe Clark made time to come out and support community causes. Think we took him away from his fishing? Mr. Clark is pictured here with Outlooks' youth writer Lorne Bradley.*





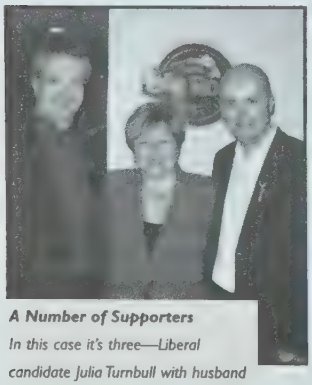
**White Before May 24th?!**
*In the case of this bit of "lobby ornamentation"—AKA Greg—I think we'll let it slide...*

**Cheers, Queers!**
*Raising their glasses for the cause are (from left) Steve, Mark, Greg and Steven.*

**Bookended by Beauty**
*Partygoer Don, flanked by Marianna (left) and Christina.*

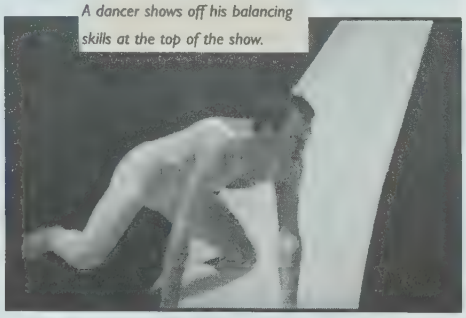
**Is That a Watering Can In Your Hand Or Are You Just Happy to See Us?!**
*With Carly York-Jones, we think it's a bit of both!*

**Making a Splash**
*Dancers strutting—er, flying, their stuff during the It's Raining Men segment*



**A Number of Supporters**
*In this case it's three—Liberal candidate Julia Turnbull with husband Greg (left) and pal Laurie Long*

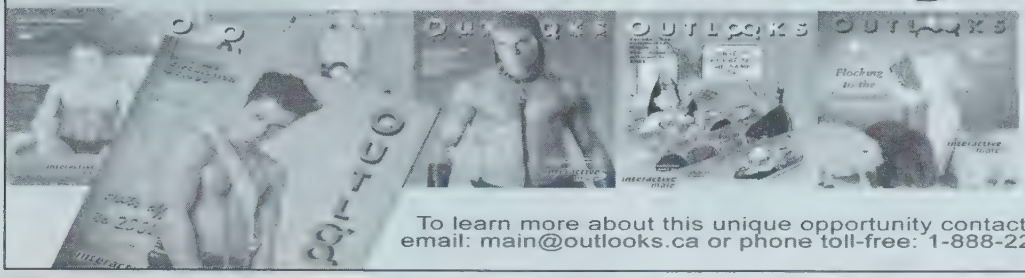
**Up For the Show**
*A dancer shows off his balancing skills at the top of the show.*



**Feathering AIDS Calgary's Nest**
*A troupe of performers giving it their all in aid of a good cause.*

Party photos by Lorne Bradley
Show photos by Colin Way

# Share The Gay Word!



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Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) (403) 237-5888

**Shelter:**
Wheatlands Community Crisis Shelter (403) 934-6634

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Jane M. Oxenbury, M.Ed., C.Psych. (403) 255-7004

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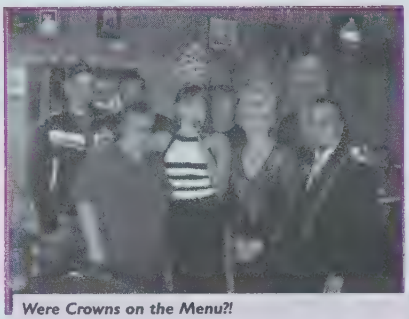
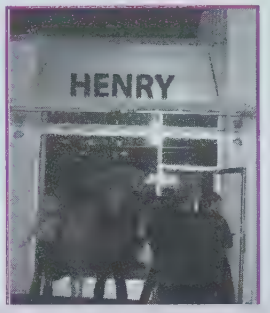
## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
MONEY-PENNIES

**Bianca, Girl, Look at the Camera!**
*Oh, well—at least 50/50 draw winner Bruce Lee "gets the picture"!*



**Were Crowns on the Menu?!**
*Members of the Imperial Court of the Chinook Arch present Lorrie Murphy with a volunteer appreciation award.*

## Grand Opening
HENRY on 4th

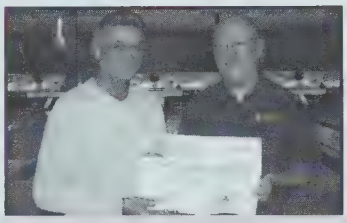



**The Place to Be**
*Calgary's style-set turned out in droves to celebrate the opening of the city's newest emporium of chic.*

**A Happy Occasion**
*(From left) Staff member Jeff, store manager Natalia and owner Jordan seem to feel that evening was a complete success.*

**Regal Presence**
*Tyler, Ernie and Sean out in the "first leg" of the marathon Ball week.*

## Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation Cheque Presentation
LET'S BOWL

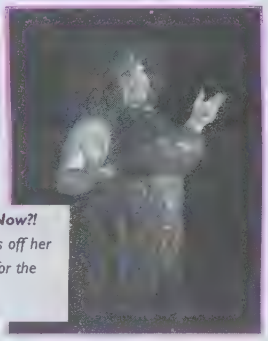


**A Strike!**
*Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation board member Roy Heale presents Bill Moore with a cheque in support of the International Gay Bowling Organization 2005 "Mid-Year" event.*

**Oh My!**
*Lysa (left) was on hand to help drive up the value of silver (!); she's shown here with pal Kate.*

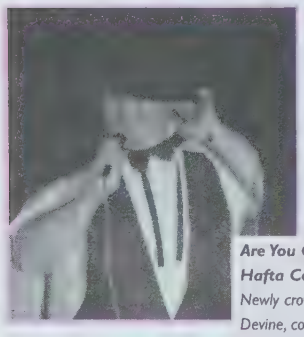
*Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Kevin or Cap at (403) 228-1157 and we'll see about covering it in Out & About.*
*Photos By: Outlooks Staff*

## Tough Drag Victory Show
METRO/BOYZTOWN

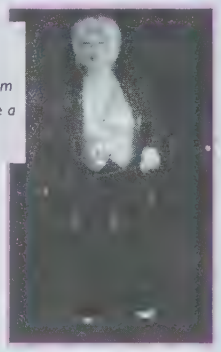


**How'd Ya Like Me Now?!**
*Summer Winters shows off her considerable "talents" for the crowd.*

**Why Won't You Look Me In the Eye?!**
*In his/her reversed role, Empress Ericka appears to be a bit of a "breast man", if that fixation on Emperor Alexander Delight's temporary tits is any indication!*



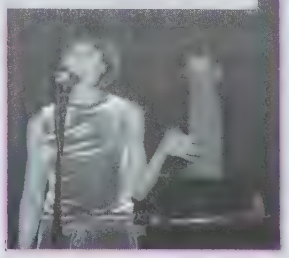
**Are You Going to Shut Up Or Do I Hafta Come Over There?**
*Newly crowned Empress 28, Ericka Devine, commands respect from her new "subjects".*



**Make That Mrs. Bojangles**
*Entertainer of the Year, Kim Would, gives the audience a bit of the ol' soft shoe.*

## Grand Opening
Zodiak Lounge

**Good Signs**
*Zodiak Lounge owners Ansar (left) and Ralph, at the start of what appeared to be a very successful evening—and business venture.*



**Glamour Gig**
*Maura engages in a bit of banter with the Zodiak's assorted friends and well-wishers, while Brian noodles away on the piano.*

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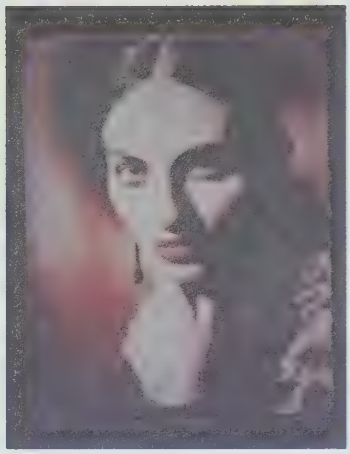
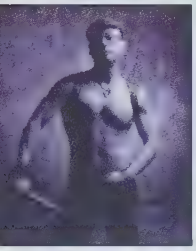
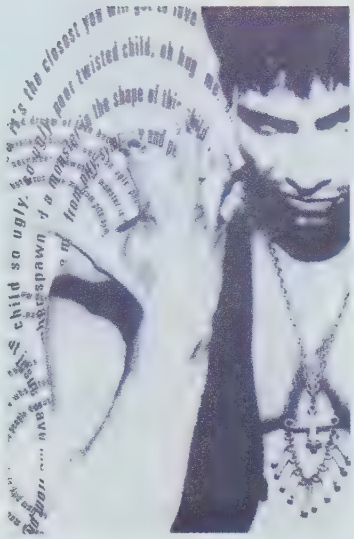
# FOCUS



## The work of Toronto's Tony Fong



Tony Fong has been a professional commercial photographer and a regular contributor to the GLBT press for more than 10 years. After assisting for a diverse group of some of Toronto's top photographers, he now specializes in fashion & portraiture and has created images for advertising, corporate, editorial and private clients. Based in Toronto, he has also lived and worked in Montreal, New York City and Miami. Upcoming projects include images for The Steamworks, a new bathhouse in Toronto, as well as the Summer 2004 Priape Leather catalogue. Mr. Fong can be reached by phone in Toronto at (416) 944-2850 or by e-mail: magicbalance@hotmail.com.



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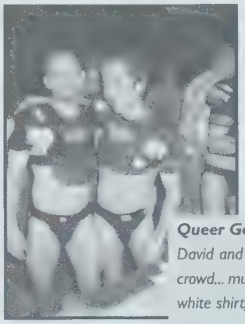
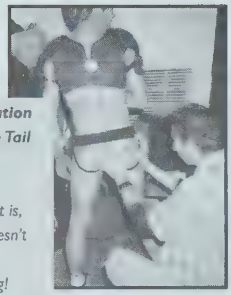
# VANCOUVER

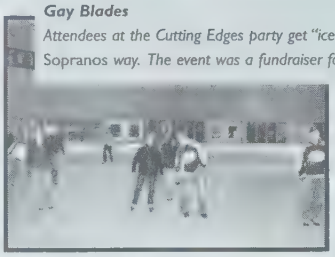
## Cutting Edges' Score 5
WEST END COMMUNITY CENTRE



**Queer Gear**
*David and Richard suited up to serve the crowd... much nicer than black pants and a white shirt, we think.*

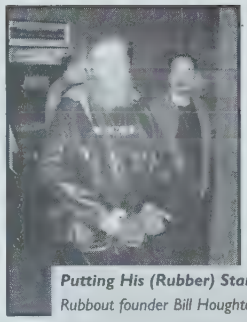


***The Evolution of Pin the Tail On the Donkey?***
*Whatever it is, Richard doesn't seem to be complaining!*

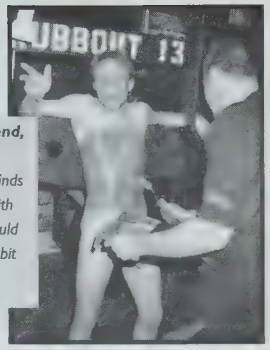


***Gay Blades***
*Attendees at the Cutting Edges party get "iced", but not in that nasty Sopranos way. The event was a fundraiser for the Dr. Peter Centre*

## Rubbout 13 Meet 'n' Greet
PUMPJACK



***Putting His (Rubber) Stamp On It***
*Rubbout founder Bill Houghton, dressed for success at the Friday night launch.*




***Check Out My friend, Prick-asso!***
*A free-spirited guest finds it easier to just 'roll with it'. Hey Prick-asso, could you move that pan a bit to the right?*

***Power Players***
*Vancouver City Councillor Tim Stevenson, MLA Lorne Mayencourt and Tim's partner Gary, out to support a very worthy cause.*

## Stardom Fundraiser
COAST PLAZA HOTEL

***I just Love That Bird Flu!***
*Seems Mandy Kamp is celebrating the fact that boas are going cheap these days...*

***Flashing the Crowd a Bit of Willie***
*Miss Taylor, doing what she does best.*

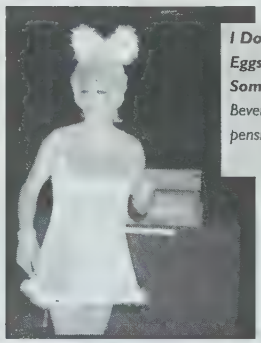
***Oh, God, Barb—Don't Encourage Him!***
*Barb Snelgrove and an unusually shy Pussy were the event's mistresses of ceremony.*

## Mr. & Ms Vancouver Leather Pride Stepdown Dinner
SANDS HOTEL

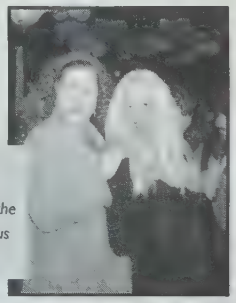
***Steppin' Down In Style***
*Mr. and Ms Vancouver Leather, Barney and Stacy, sashless and still smiling.*

***Leather Chaps***
*Rob and Chris demonstrate that good guys really do wear black.*

## Legs & Eggs Show
DUFFERIN HOTEL



***I Don't Feel Like Eggs... Can I Lay Something Else?***
*Beverly X caught in a pensive moment.*



***Big Hairy Deal***
*Jamie Lee Hamilton and hostess Pussy Willow tempt the camera with their tremendous tresses.*

## Third Birthday Celebration
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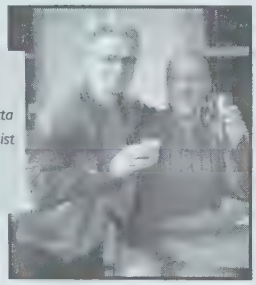
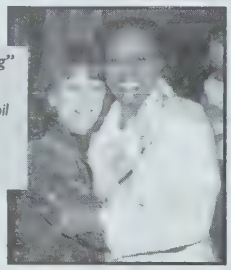


***Celebrating Incognito...ish***
*Carl and Mark, AKA Carlotta Gurl and Mandy Kamp, hoist a couple of bevvies in honour of the Oasis.*



***A Good "Thrashing"***
*Kendra Sprinkling cuddles up to pal Sybil Thrasher post-performance.*

***Mr. (and Mrs.) Cellophane***
*Empress Estee Louder and Emperor DJ Jules have their arms full—literally—with roses at the show.*

## Shooting Stars Foundation Stellar Celebration
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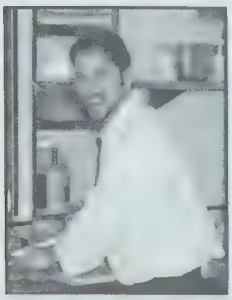
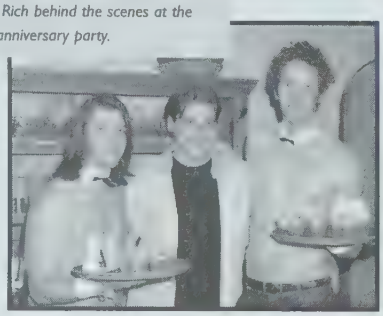


***Where There's a Grill There's a Way***
*Chef Robert hard at it in the kitchen. Don't that just have "husband material" written all over it?*



***Flanked By Flesh***
*Oasis manager James Steck (centre), "collars" DJ (left) and Rich behind the scenes at the restaurant's anniversary party.*

***Queens Seen***
*Carlotta, Connie and Willie en route to their gig up Main Street. Talk about travelling "light".*

***A Good Tim Was Had By All***
*VanCity's (and shooting Stars Foundation board member) Janine Davies with Councillor Tim Stevenson. Excuse me, but are you two kids drinking?!*

*Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Barry Piersdorff.*

# Weathering the challenges

By David Crosson

Back in 1989, trend forecaster Faith Popcorn made a visit to Vancouver to tell its citizens how they should prepare themselves for the new decade ahead. Her mega-trend predictions for the '90s? Gardening and golf. "I think a few of Faith's kernels haven't popped," I remember saying to a friend who gushingly reported the news. "What does she think this is, Florida?"

Fast-forward fifteen years. People are still sporting appalling pastel knitwear and treating the links like a secondary boardroom. That Tiger is still in the woods (and irons, and putters...). And gardening has exploded in the biggest of ways—to try to tell people that the trend is over now would be much like telling Jack to try to stuff that stalk back into the magic bean. Hmmmm—I guess I should've had a little bit more faith in Faith...

**However, if one does even a fundamental bit of research, one soon discovers that the broad, flat stretch of land between the Rockies and the Shield is nothing if not complex. Frequently lumped together as a single zone, Canada's prairie region is surprisingly diverse when it comes to climate and vegetation.**

In times like these (there have always been 'times like these', but the past few years *really* seem to qualify as 'times like these'), it's comforting to know that people have the option of mucking about in the dirt and making something beautiful grow when it all gets to be too much for them. At least for a *few* months of the year... in *some* parts of the country.

Gardening on the prairies has always been a bit of a challenge: long, bitter winters combined with the dry summers of late and the eternal possibility of hail ups the ante considerably for green thumbs of any stripe. In the nine years I've lived in Calgary, snow has fallen, at some point or other, in every month of the year. (As I write this, on April 15th, there is *still* snow on the ground and more on the way.) Global Television recently reported that it will take until at least August for the mountain of ice in Winnipeg's municipal "snow dump" to melt. When temperatures *do* warm up, Saskatchewan (and likely its neighbours either side) can look forward to the possibility of a near-biblical invasion of grasshoppers. What to do, what to do... run for the bottle? Throw in the towel?

According to those "in the know", preparation and patience is all it really takes to reap the rewards of a beautiful prairie garden. However, if one does even a fundamental bit of research, one soon discovers that the broad, flat stretch of land between the Rockies and the Shield is nothing if not complex. Frequently lumped together as a single zone, Canada's prairie region is surprisingly diverse when it comes to climate and vegetation. I soon discovered this while chatting with two people who have made it their business to successfully tackle landscape and garden design in one of the Canadian midwest's most temperamental cities, Calgary.

June Burton, of A June Garden, originally hails from "down east", and has spent the better part of three decades acquainting herself with the horticultural peccadilloes of her new(ish) home. Jay Haberl is the general manager of Prestige Landscape, a Calgary-based full-service design and maintenance firm. Both agree that, while Cowtown offers gardeners a variety of challenges, none of them is so great as to be insurmountable.

"Calgary has a very specific climate—there are actually four zones within the city based on where you live," Haberl says. "For example, we never plant cedars here but if you live in the right microclimate—Mount Royal or down near the river—you can actually get them to grow."

Burton, too, acknowledges Calgary's stand-alone nature, even within the province of Alberta. "It's really hard to classify something as 'prairie gardening'," she says. "The books that [Alberta Governor General] Lois Hole has put out are *fabulous*, but they are geared for Edmonton, which is a totally different climate again. I've worked in Priddis, which is closer to the mountains, and I've worked in Calgary; they're both quite different places even though they are only a short distance away from each other. It can be quite a challenge if you don't know what works here."

Despite the obvious issues of climate, Burton and Haberl feel that the greatest hurdles Calgary gardeners face are the ones they create for themselves.

"Typically people here use plant material that doesn't grow in our zones and they get frustrated when it dies year after year after year," Haberl says, "so it's really important that we educate our clients about what will grow in a Chinook belt like the one we live in."

Burton agrees. "People waste far too much money buying the wrong things and things that won't work here." She also feels that impatience plays a role in the failure of many garden projects. "More so than the weather, I find that a lack of appropriate soil amendments—mostly organic ones—is what ruins many gardens. Everybody overfertilizes to get those big, 'poofy' blooms, and that can cause a shrub or perennial to go into a spastic growth rate and almost burn itself out. A short growing season coupled with overfertilization means the plants don't have time to mature and 'harden off' prior to a killing frost. People are going for the short-term effect and losing the benefits of actually *cultivating* a strong, healthy garden."

The two cite timing as a major factor in planting successfully, and feel that many are too quick to reach for the trowel once they see their first robin. "Most people think that it's fine to plant after the May 24th weekend, but our rule of thumb is June 1st," Haberl says. "Typically the last heavy frost occurs with the last full moon."

Burton's feelings on the matter echo those of Haberl's. "I've tracked frost dates here for thirty years and I've seen it as late as June 7th and as early as August 21st," she says. "And Calgary is renowned for its spring and early summer snowfalls."

She's quick to point out, however, that the odd 'freak' snowstorm in July or August is no cause for any great concern. "At that point [snow] acts as an insulator and the plants are mature enough to take it," Burton says. "But a killing frost before the end of May will do a lot of things in. People get mad at me when I won't let them plant too early—I only let them have one pot and I tell them to cover it up until the time is right!"

Burton and Haberl are unanimous in their assertion that Calgary gardeners need not let the limitations of their city's climate limit them, and that a sense of adventure is key. "There's a misconception about only planting in the spring and fall in Calgary," Haberl states. "As long as you can dig a hole you can plant something, and there's always a fifty-fifty chance that it'll make it. Although, obviously, with 'softer' plant material you have to wait until the time is really right."

"There are some perennials and shrubs that are not typically considered 'prairie plants' that actually do quite well here," Burton offers. "I love the Explorer and Parkland series roses, which are *totally* hardy here. What can be considered 'ideal' in this climate is really a matter of how much work a gardener is willing to do."

When it comes to discussing trends in gardening, both Haberl and Burton are reluctant to cite specifics, preferring instead to focus on their clients' needs and tastes. "I'd actually rather have a client give me a budget and an idea of what they want from their yard and then I come up with an environment that suits them," Burton says. "If I had to say something, I'd say that grey and burgundy or yellow and burgundy combinations are big right now; and I think grasses have 'had their day'."

On the same subject, Haberl's idea of what constitutes a trend is a bit broader. "We're seeing lots of development on the edge of the city and developers are now interested in building *communities*, which, of course, require specific landscaping," he says. "I also see people taking that cocooning instinct out into their yards and gardens; since September 11th we've seen an increase in the money and care people are putting into their yards."

Like Burton, Haberl places the greatest emphasis on the needs and tastes of the individual customer. "I love a blank canvas: no budget concerns and a client who wants the best looking place in the city—the only constraint being what will work in Calgary. And even then there's a lot of room to 'play'."

For Burton, a sense of play includes the ability to look beyond the parameters of growing seasons and see the garden as a year 'round source of inspiration. "I like my clients to look at structure—garden art, garden ornamentation; the form of a tree or shrub after it's lost its leaves," she says. "You don't have to give up once something isn't green anymore; a trimmed hedge in a maze pattern with a fountain in the middle, all covered with snow, looks incredible."

Given the fact that the "spring" vista beyond my window looks like something from a television Christmas special, these are well-cultivated thoughts, indeed. Then again, I also have to wonder how much aesthetic integrity the sight of a robin all covered in snow would have!

June Burton and her team at A June Garden can be reached by phone at (403) 263-1278 or by e-mail at: ajunegarden@shaw.ca; Jay Haberl, of Prestige Landscape, can be contacted through the company's main switchboard at (403) 280-5400.

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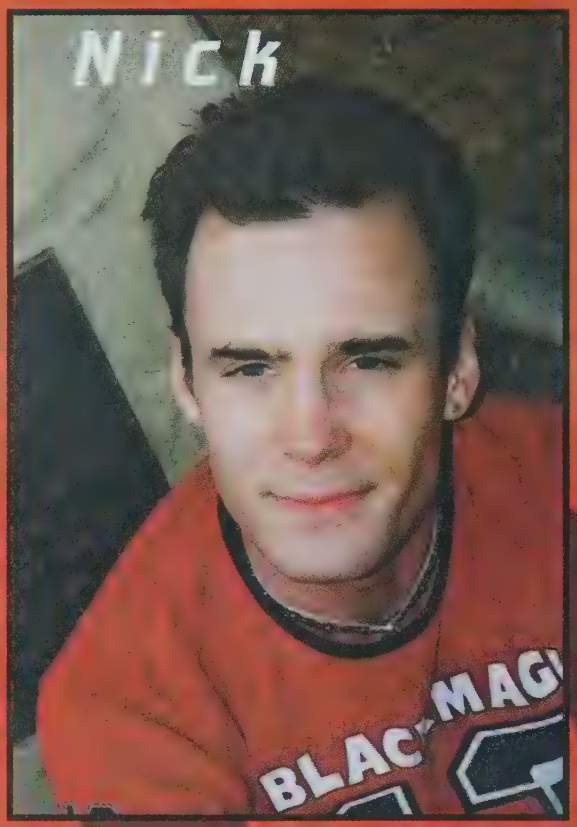


Photographed By: Graham Major

This Libra is currently studying Pharmacy Tech and hopes to specialize in alternative herbal remedies when he graduates. In his spare time, Nick rollerblades, works out and designs jewellery. He's shown here in Tomkins Park, site of the Outlooks/Pride Calgary after-parade Street Festival.

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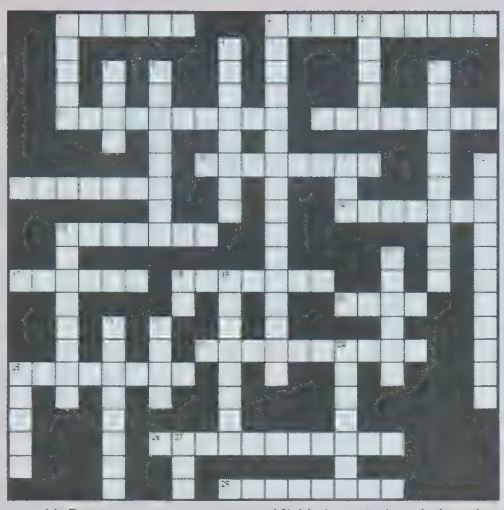
# QUEERWORD

clues & words by *Outlooks* staff
answers on page 37



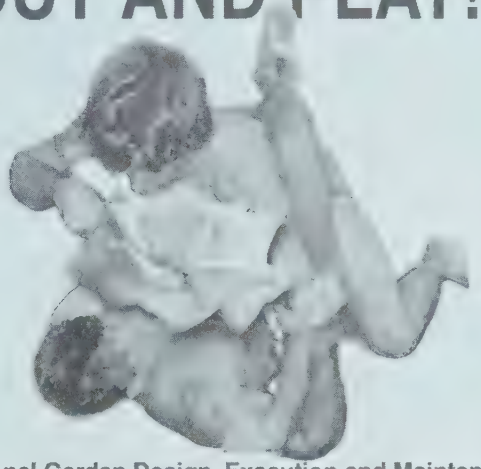
**Across**

1) Colour pf paint tray on front cover
2) Drag queen (former) political candidate: Enza _____
8) Mr. Edmonton Leather 2003
9) Retired politician in attendance at Calgary Cares
10) Calgary bathhouse at centre of controversy
13 Director of Calgary's Western Cup: Thomas ____
14) Head "honchette" in Court system, or Victoria hotel
15) Red, yellow & blue are this kind of colour
17) Metal object seen behind cover model
18) Cinema snack or trend forecaster Faith
20) *Ultimate Gay Sex*'s Michael Thomas or type of car
23) Term used to describe the purity of a colour
25) Theme of second reviewed porn flick
26) Calgary's current sitting mayor
28) Name of Freddy's first "patient"

**Down**

1) 3-year-old Vancouver eatery or Calgary spa
2) Front cover slogan (on cans)
3) Chelsea Boy Nathan's nickname for his sis
4) Photographer featured in this month's Focus
5) Informal ottoman or British slang for gay man
6) Matt Bernstein Sycamore's alter-ego
7) Current president of Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre
11) Another word for colour
12) Hostess of Vancouver's Legs and Eggs event
15) Fashionista Phillip just had one of these treatments
16) British paint & wallpaper producer: _____ & Ball
18) Mathematical symbol used as inspiration for wooden stool
19) Type of wax used in aesthetics procedures
21) Our man Svend or *The Graduate*'s Mrs.
22) Tiny razor cut or May's Don't You Wish?
24) Park where Calgary Pride festival will be held
25) Island destination in "Five fabulous fakes"
27) Bank that gave $23,500 to GLBT charities


TIME TO COME OUT AND PLAY!



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by Nicole Zylstra
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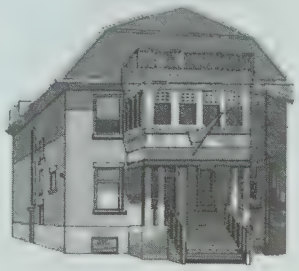
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OUTLOOKS Q reviews

# Film

By Dale Smith

***Director: Geoffrey Sax***
***Production: BBC Productions***
***Running time: 178 minutes***
***Release Date: 2002***

If there's one thing the Brits do well, it's putting queer life on the screen in a way that puts North Americans to shame. And if there's one thing the BBC excels at in particular, it is period dramas. Put the two together, and you get *Tipping The Velvet*, a saucy lesbian period-drama, set in London during the 1890s.

Based on the book by Sarah Waters, the film follows the life of Nancy "Nan" Astley (Rachael Stirling) from a stint as an oyster girl in Whitstable to the stages of London's music halls with her first love, Kitty Butler (Keely Hawes). Kitty is famous for performing her stage show dressed in gentleman's clothes, and when Nan first becomes enamoured with her, Kitty asks Nan to help out as her dresser backstage. When Kitty gets a contract in London, she offers to take Nan with her and Nan jumps at the chance. It isn't long before Nan joins her onstage as Nan King, a similar, if perhaps better, drag performer than Kitty herself. As the two become the toast of the town, they also become "sweethearts" (as Nan rather quaintly puts it).

When Kitty agrees to marry their manager, Walter Bliss (John Bowe) for the sake of convenience, Nan is heartbroken and flees the theatre scene, continuing to work in drag as a rent-boy, and then as the companion of an eccentric wealthy widow, Diana Letherby (Anna Chancellor). It was this section, the majority of the film's second part, that I found most interesting. Diana's world is the bawdy lesbian scene that you never read about in Victorian novels or see in other period dramas, full of gender playacting and the power games that come from the wealthy keeping their lovers as servants. But all things—good or otherwise—must come to an end, and Nan is thrown out of Diana's world of privilege into the working class world of Florence (Jodhi May) and her brother Ralph (Hugh Bonneville), a transition that provides the bulk of the film's third part.

*Tipping the Velvet* is well shot, and brings the period to life in a way that has perhaps never been seen on screen before. There is a good blend of romance, heartbreak and humour to keep the film from getting either too depressing or too cloyingly sweet. In terms of production, there is only one scene that made me cringe—it's snowing out, and it's so cold that the Thames has frozen over. And yet, Nan and Florence can walk across London Bridge without being bundled up and without condensation on their breath, in what is an obviously mediocre bluescreen effect. I'm sure that all Canadians will share my horror at how badly a winter scene like that comes off, no matter what the intention. The other 'downer' was the constant repetition of the one song Kitty and Nan sang, which quickly grew tiresome.

Compared to the novel, the film was a faithful interpretation up until the third part (which speeds up the pace of events and collapses some of them together). Where it deviates most is in the entire chain of events that affect Florence, starting from their first meeting in part two to their reconnection in part three. The film portrays Nan's character as far less naive and much more calculating than her literary counterpart, but this is doubtless for the sake of pacing, until the third part, where Nan and Florence nearly trade temperaments. At this point, it seems that it was done to allow for more growth in Nan's onscreen character, much more so than in the novel. The endings also differ significantly—the film's being far more cinematic and, dare I say "Hollywood", than that of the novel. Overall, however, *Tipping the Velvet* was most enjoyable and, because of the original miniseries format, it allows the viewer the option of watching all three hours at once, or spreading them out over the course of a few evenings. ▼

**Favourite Scene:**

**The wickedness displayed at her birthday party by Diana's circle of friends (the Cavendish Sapphists), and Nan's comments about them.**

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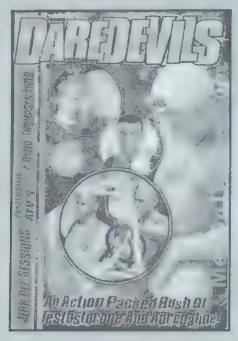
## Daredevils

From: Vivid Man Video




*Featuring: Sonny Markham, Ricky Price, Cort Stevens, Jake Armstrong, Tommy Cruise, Alex Powers, Rod Barry, Mat West, Ricky Starr, Hawk McAllistar*

*Running Time: 110 minutes*

The weather is warming up and outdoor activities are the order of the day. A wild weekend of extreme sports in the rugged Colorado countryside leads to extreme sex for ten handsome, muscular outdoor enthusiasts, and these stunning men prove that their athletic ability is matched only by their sexual prowess. The rigorous workouts and stimulation provided by whitewater rafting, rock climbing, high-speed maneuvers on ATVs, skydiving and bungee jumping get these hunks going to the point where only sexual release will calm down their pounding hearts.

Ricky Price and Sonny Markham take their raft down the river until they find the perfect rock face to climb. The two of them easily reach the top, all the while pushing their testosterone levels to the limit. With spectacular views surrounding them, Ricky cannot resist the ripples underneath Sunny's white muscle shirt. He also inevitably discovers the big, throbbing muscle barely restrained inside Sunny's denim cut-offs and, in their rocky hideaway high up in the hills, it seems natural for them both to be naked. When hormones take over, Ricky soon has his hands and mouth full. These expert climbers show that the climb was worth the effort and demonstrate that they both know what to do when they're on top.

The adrenaline rush from whitewater rafting leaves Cort Stevens and Jake Armstrong breathless and wanting more excitement after their final lesson. They quickly find this in the secluded trees and shrubbery of the riverbank. Cort is a muscular bodybuilder's delight, and Jake knows how to make every ab and pec taut until their tensions release in a mutual climax.

However, all this physical exertion is *nothing* compared to the exhilarating sensation of skydiving. Hawk McAllistar and Ricky Starr take their lessons seriously and their first jump is the ultimate thrill for them both. Neither one of them can imagine what to do next, but their hormones take over and soon these two stallions amaze each other with their size and endurance after the heart-pounding experience of a freefall.

Rod Barry proves he can drive more than an ATV with his own ten-inch pile driver and Tommy Cruise lives up to his namesake with a spectacularly high bungee jump. With their daredevil stunts and sexual performances, these athletes will definitely have your heart pounding. With this movie, you too can dare to release the devil inside you this summer!

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**RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| MUSIC: ★★★ | SET: ★★★★★ |
| BODIES: ★★★★★ | STORY: ★★★★ |
| ACTION SCENES: ★★★★ | |

## Bareback Alley

From: ZyloCo

*Featuring: Bud, Austin Black, Cameron Cruise, Anthony DeAngelo, Derek Parker, Randy Summers, Arik Travis*

*Running Time: 90 minutes*

According to the teaser on the front cover, "cigarettes aren't the only thing smokin'" in *Bareback Alley*. But, as you might have gathered from the title, those telltale wisps aren't coming from condom-on-skin friction, either. For those who like to "shoot with the safety off", this film is a veritable smorgasbord of down 'n' dirty deeds, lustily embraced by a cast of full-on leather men (twink enthusiasts need not apply...).

Set in the service lane (doesn't take long to figure out how it got *that* name) behind Tony's F***Club in Los Angeles and several areas around the premises, *Bareback Alley* delivers non-stop action for those who like their men butch and their sex raunchy. First up are Anthony DeAngelo and Derek Parker, who acquaint themselves intimately in the glow of the club's back door. Leathered up and out for a good time, these two get down to business with a minimum of negotiation, and are soon joined by "junior daddy" Cameron Cruise. Needless to say, when all is said and *come*, both the alleyway and Mr. Parker are a sticky mess!

Next comes (literally) Bud and Austin Black, the majorly tattooed former getting into a hot round of body worship with the latter before submitting his colourful frame to Black's carnal whims. Hidden away (or so they think) in one of the club's upper rooms, the two unleash their lust in a big way. This blur of ink, leather and piercings is followed by an explosive climax, secretly witnessed by Anthony DeAngelo.

Finally, also under the watchful (and lust-filled) eye of Mr. DeA, hunky skinhead Arik Travis and harnessed pigboy Randy Summers put all predecessors to shame with their frenzied pit-licking, nipple-biting and dick-sucking. It's hot enough to entice ultimate daddy DeAngelo out of the shadows for a bit of rough and tumble that sees Arik Travis surrendering both ends to his partners' desires. At the end of it all (the end of the action, not Travis' end), the jizz flies fast and furious, creating a reverse dalmatian pattern on everyone's remaining leather garments and the rubber mat the three wind up on.

Like others of its kind, *Bareback Alley* offers a disclaimer and words of caution about unprotected sex before getting down to business. Taken with a grain of salt and a mountain of prudence, as a work of erotic fantasy, this ZyloCo release delivers the goods in spades.

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**RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| MUSIC: ★★★★ | SET: ★★★★ |
| BODIES: ★★★ | STORY: ★★★ |
| ACTION SCENES: ★★★★ | |

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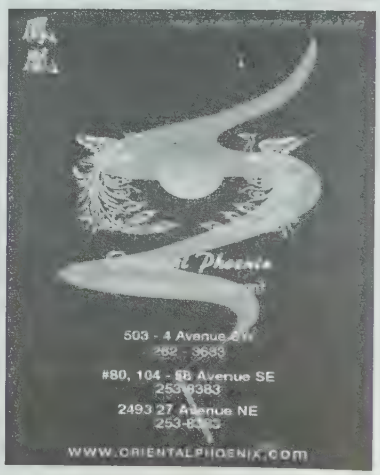

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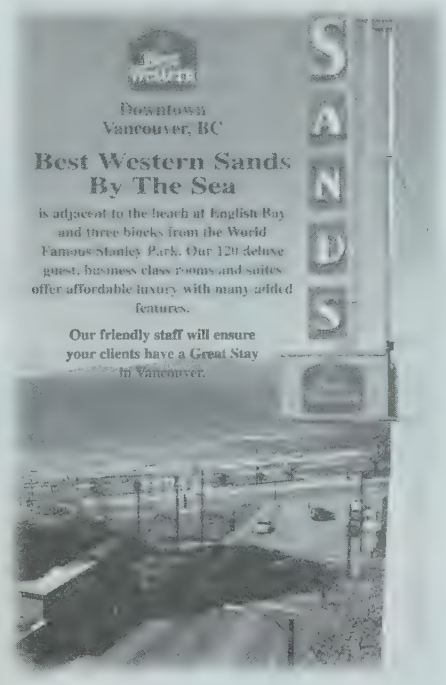


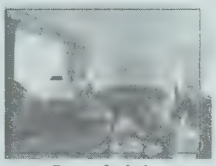

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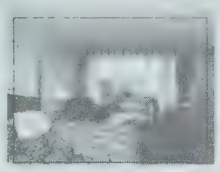

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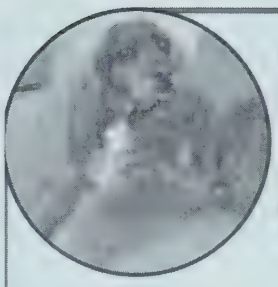

# Dear Freddy

**Dear Freddy,**

**I have been reading *Outlooks* ever since it came out and I like your advice. I never thought that I would be writing to you, but here goes. I am interested in a guy who is a real sweetheart; problem is, he hasn't come out—not even his friends know about him). I first met him back in December and we have gotten to know each other fairly well. It's not always been sex; at times we go out for a beer and then go back to his place, or mine, and relax. I have gone down on him several times and he has gone down on me and obviously enjoyed it as he has come (quite a bit, I might add!). He knows that I'm out but his roommate and friends don't know about him. His roommate—who I thought was quite nice—is, in fact, a real bitch. She has been saying things about me behind my back, asking nasty questions like "*That* guy was here again?!", or "Is he *gay*?".**

**I can partially understand how she may wonder why a guy who is five years older than her roommate (he's twenty-five, I'm thirty) is hanging around with someone younger, but in no way do I plan on hurting him. It just pisses me off that one night we're together having a good time and then the next day it's almost as if she is telling him to stay away from me. My friends have met him and like him, so the big question is: what should I do?**

**Thanks,**
**Confused**
**P.S. You can put this in *Outlooks*, or e-mail me; either way I would like an answer.**

Dear Confused,
After seven years of receiving letters from people named "Confused", I'm starting to believe there are enough of you out there to warrant a special clan tartan of your own! Ever think about changing your name to "Puzzled"? Anyway, it sounds like you're caught between a cock and a hard place, the latter being, of course, loverboy's cranky roommate. The problem here Puzz—er, *Confused*, is that you don't need a way out, *he* does. The interesting thing about closets is that they come in all shapes and sizes, from linen to walk-in and everything in-between. The object of your affection seems to be crammed into a medicine chest, given what you've told me, and needs to give himself—and you—some breathing space. Obviously, he knows what the roommate is like if she's been directing her "nasty" questions about you to him and he really should show you some respect by putting a stop to it immediately. He doesn't necessarily need to jump up on a float and profess his love for wieners when Pride rolls around, but he should at least put himself in a position where he doesn't have to "hide" in his own home. Tell him to straighten things out (so to speak) with his roommate, for his sake and yours. If he won't, then maybe you should look for someone who's a better "fit". After all, how long can you be comfortable being forced to live in *someone else's* closet? Hope this helps.
Fred
P.S. Aw, Hell—tell him to ditch the bitch and find a fag-hag to split the bills with. They're a dime a dozen (a nickel, even, once university let's out) and are usually big enough to loan you their clothes for doing drag at Hallowe'en. Just a thought…
F.

**Dear Freddy,**

**I'm having a problem with my boyfriend; he gets turned on by b.o. and wants me to stop wearing deodorant, like him. I think it's gross and I don't want people thinking that I'm the one who stinks—what should I do?**
**N.G.**

Dear N.G.
I'm sure your beau likes it when you lick his droopy ol' testicles, too, but I doubt either one of you would be comfortable doing *that* in public. Forgo the pit-stick in the bedroom to keep him happy, if it's such a big deal; however, speaking as one who's sensitive to smell, I say dump the bugger and move on to someone who's made the jump from homo erectus (tee hee) to homo sapiens. Smell ya later, dear
Freddy

## Write to me, Dears!

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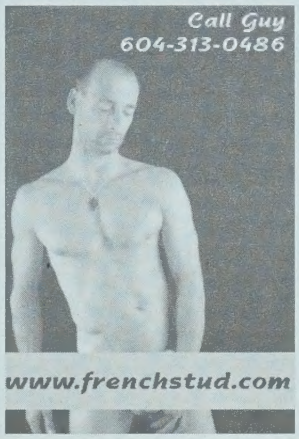


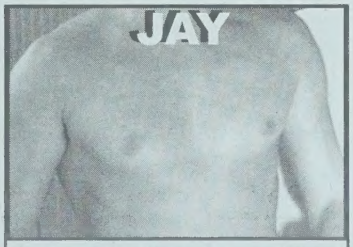


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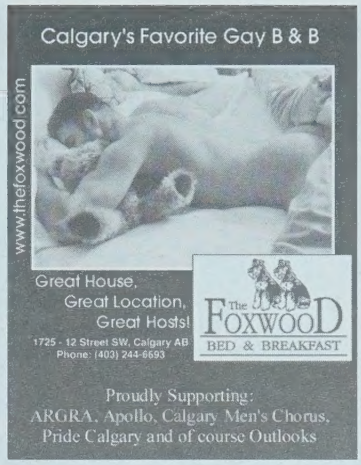

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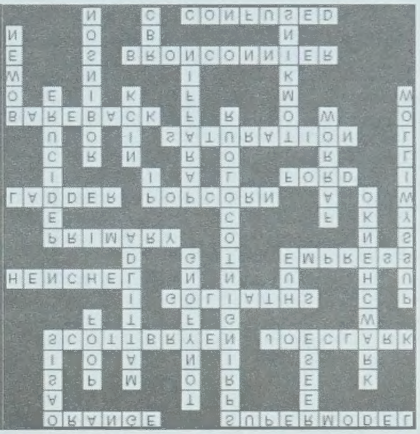

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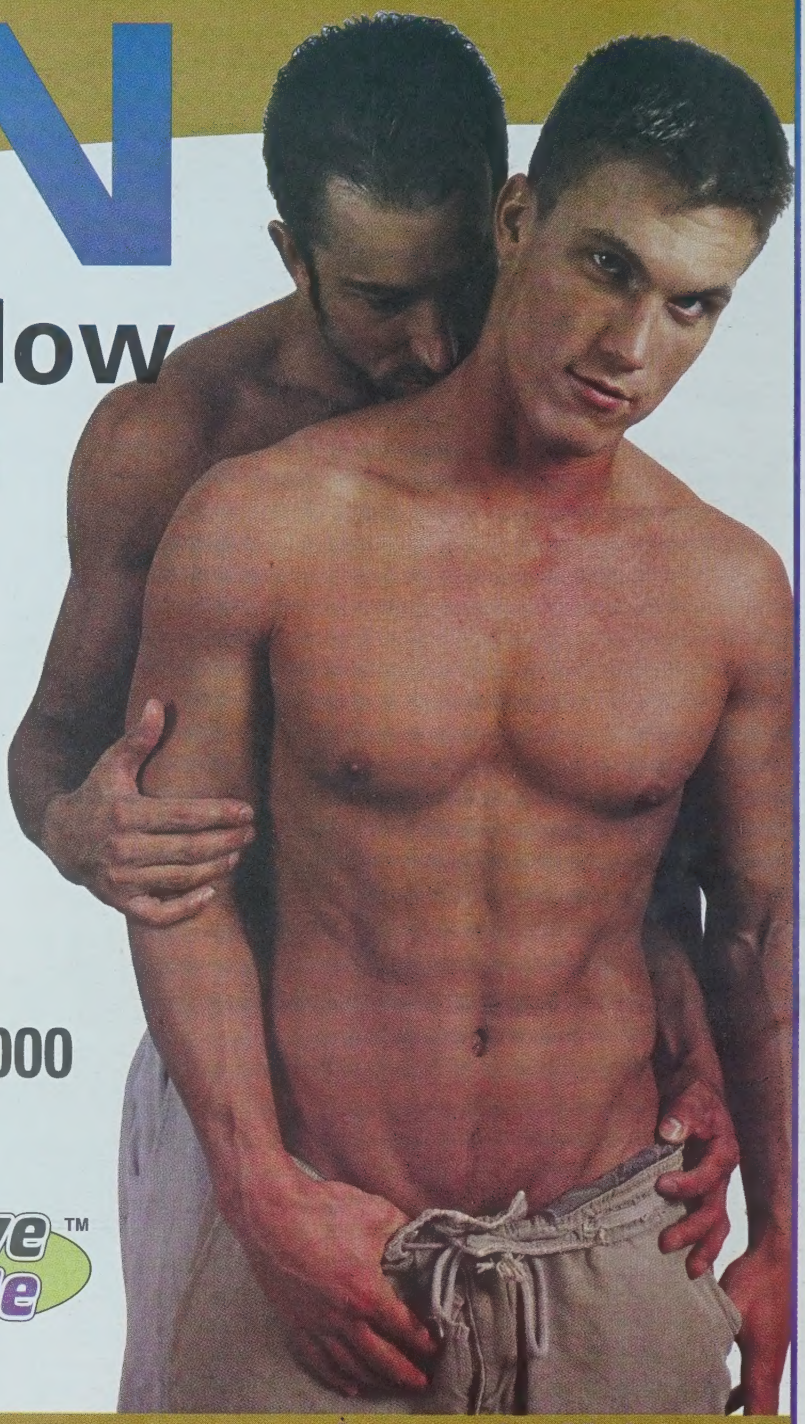

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